5 vacation ideas for foodies

Make tagine in Morocco or chocolate desserts in France PAGE 27

LAYTON'S LEGACY 'VERY MUCH ALIVE'

VANCOUVER EAST MP DAVIES REFLECTS ONE YEAR AFTER NDP LEADER'S DEATH PAGE 3

VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

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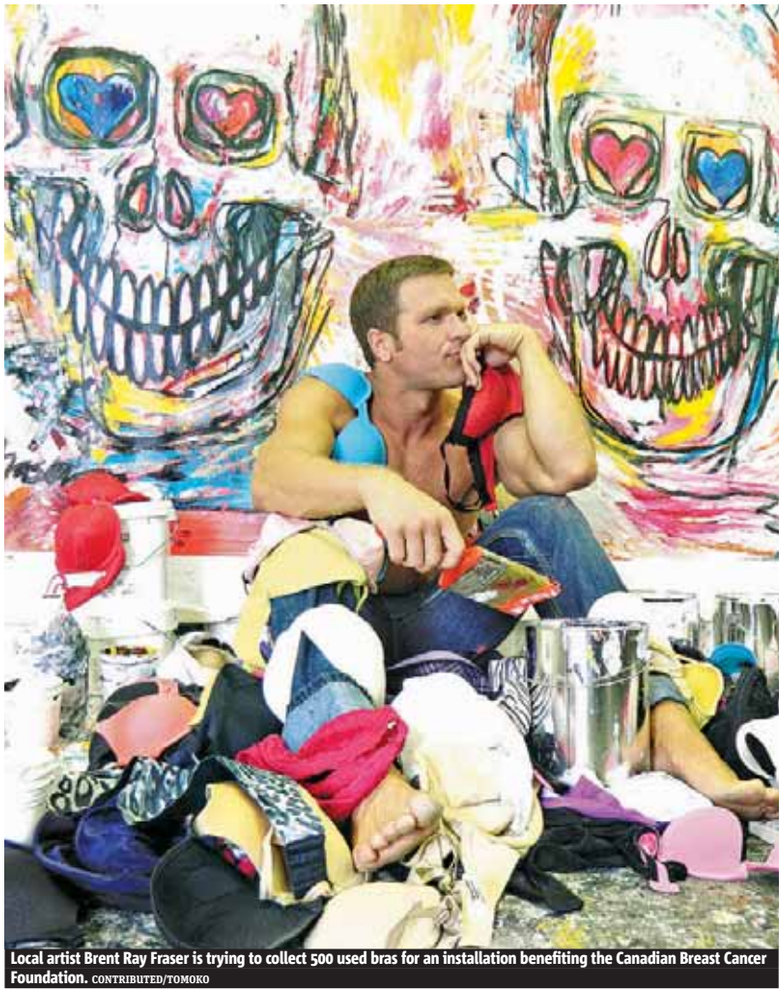

Local artist Brent Ray Fraser is trying to collect 500 used bras for an installation benefiting the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. CONTRIBUTED/TOMOKO

Put those old bras to good use

Cancer fundraiser. Man seeking hundreds of bra donations for live art performance

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Ladies: Can you hook him up?

Vancouver artist Brent Ray Fraser is trying to collect 500 used bras for a live art show being held downtown on Sept. 5 to raise funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Fraser, an Emily Carr grad who has worked for Louis Vuitton and has installations in several B.C. stores and restaurants, plans to mount the bras on a six-by-six-foot canvas. Then, on a lit stage in a 250-person-capacity venue, he will film himself in front of the crowd doing one of his trademark live art performances.

"I'm going to paint the most beautiful pair of breasts I have ever seen in the entire world onto the most beautiful canvas I have ever constructed," he declared Tuesday.

Details

- **What.** Create+Commemorate Live Art Breast Cancer Fundraiser
- **Where.** 437 W. Hastings St.
- **When.** Sept. 5. Doors at 8 p.m., shows start at 9.
- **Tickets.** $10 at the door. All proceeds go to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

"It's beautiful because it's made from donations from women who want to help support breast-cancer awareness."

He hopes to auction off the three-dimensional sculpture-cum-painting for the charity at some point in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

So far he has already collected more than 100 bras from all over, including one mailed to him from Ohio.

The show is being hosted at an artists' collective, and will include breast-themed exhibits by several other local painters, sculptors and photographers.

Used bras can be mailed to Fraser's studio until Aug. 30 at 25160-72nd Ave., Langley, B.C., V4W 1H9.

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Still 'hard to believe' Jack is gone: Vancouver MP

Transcended cynical politics. Libby Davies reflects on the late NDP leader's legacy

ELIZABETH HAMES
vancouver@metronews.ca

A year after Jack Layton died of cancer, NDP deputy leader Libby Davies says he's still an inspiration.

"The work that Jack did, I mean, he gave a legacy not just to the NDP but to all Canadians," Davies, the MP for Vancouver East, said on the phone from Toronto. "And that's something that's very much alive."

Layton had led the New Democrats since 2003, but his popularity spiked in the months leading up to the federal election of May 2, 2011.

He campaigned to bring social change to Canada by working with other federalist parties and holding politicians to account — all with a moustache-crowned smile.

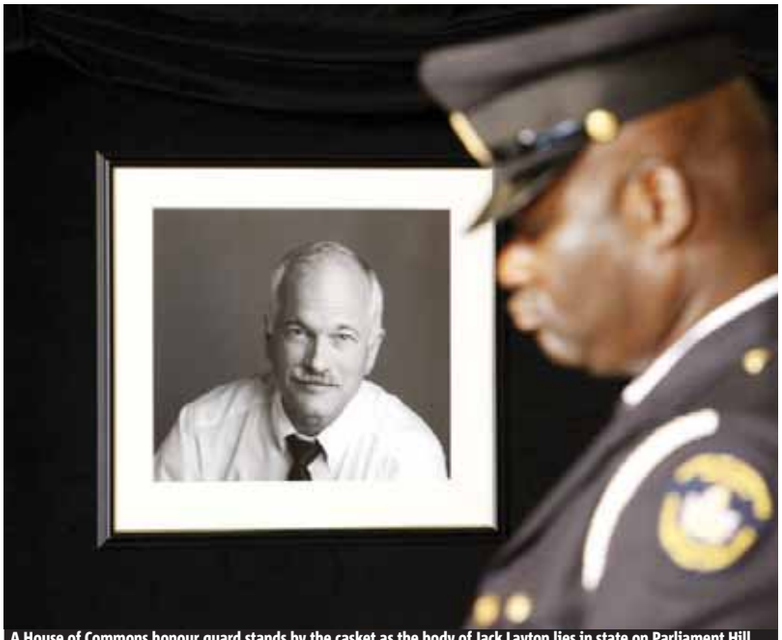
Canadians responded to Layton's campaign with an Orange Crush. They elected more than 100 NDP MPs, landing Layton the title of leader of the Official Opposition.

"People can feel very cynical about politics and politicians," Davies said. "And I think in Jack they saw someone who was constructive, who always looked for a way to propose what should be done instead of a way of deposing something."

His death less than four months after the election was a hard blow for New Democrat MPs, many of whom were rookies, some as young as 19.

But Davies, who has been with the NDP since 1997, said the loss brought the party closer together. "We're very unified and very strong together, and I think Jack would be proud of that," she said.

Despite her party's successes, she said the past year without Layton has been a tough one. "Personally, I find it very hard to believe he's not here. He was such a big presence in my life over many years."



A House of Commons honour guard stands by the casket as the body of Jack Layton lies in state on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Aug. 24, 2011. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cop's one-day suspension not enough: OPCC

A frame from a 2010 video shows a police officer pushing a disabled woman, in red, to the ground in the Downtown Eastside. SCREEN GRAB

A Vancouver police officer who was caught on camera pushing a disabled woman to the ground two years ago could face a tougher punishment after B.C.'s Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner rejected a proposed one-day suspension.

A June 2010 surveillance video captured Sandy Davidsen, who has cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis, being shoved by Const. Taylor Robinson as she walked by him and two other officers on Hastings Street.

Assault charges against Robinson were stayed last spring after he agreed to complete an alternative-measures program.

During a disciplinary conference this month, the Vancouver Police Department and Robinson agreed on a proposed one-day suspension and one-on-one training on available-force options.

But in a letter issued on Aug. 13, Comm. Stan Lowe said the proposed discipline "does not reflect or adequately address the seriousness of Const. Robinson's misconduct."

Davidsen's lawyer, Scott Bernstein, said his client was surprised by the decision and hopes there will be appropriate consequences for the officer.

"She is pleased that the OPCC is taking a rare move and treating this matter very seriously," Bernstein said on Tuesday. "She's cautiously optimistic that the process is going to result in some meaningful change with the (VPD)."

Bernstein has requested that the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner appoint a retired judge, rather than a police officer, to review the case.

Robinson's formal disciplinary hearing is set for Oct. 5.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

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Economic hub. B.C. touts report that says province attracts most investment

The B.C. government is touting a new report that says the province is attracting more investment than other jurisdictions in Canada.

The report, prepared for the Canadian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association, suggests investment activity rose by 71 per cent in B.C. in the second quarter this year compared to 2011.

The report by Thomson Reuters says the province drew more than 20 per cent of all venture capital invested in the country.

It also says the largest deal made in Canada during the second quarter happened in B.C., with computer hardware company D-Wave attracting a nearly $36-million investment.

The report pegs Vancouver as the country's second-largest economic hub, with Toronto currently in first place.

Jobs Minister Pat Bell credits the province's low-tax, stable investment climate for boosting the economy and creating employment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Screaming about Satan. Man charged after violent outburst on SkyTrain

A 31-year-old man is facing multiple charges after allegedly head-butting a passenger and screaming death threats and racial slurs on a packed SkyTrain following a B.C. Lions game Sunday.

Grant Christopher Stewart allegedly pushed his way onto a full train at Main Street Sunday evening and began yelling at one of the passengers before head-butting him. The man was knocked to the ground and started to bleed profusely.

Transit police said Stewart then started "screaming about Satan, making racist slurs and about how he would kill them all."

Several passengers tried to hold down Stewart until police arrived, while others activated the passenger-safety alarm.

The struggle continued until Broadway Station, where transit police were waiting at the doors.

Just before the train stopped, the suspect allegedly turned and spat in the face of a young woman beside him.

The man who had been head-butted and suffered some cuts was treated on scene.

"Witnesses, while very helpful, were disturbed," transit police said in a statement.

Stewart, who has no fixed address, faces five charges, including assault, uttering threats, obstruction of a peace officer, and causing a disturbance. Police have also requested a psychiatric assessment.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Safety first

"While police would never ask passengers to put themselves in danger, we commend these persons for the actions they took to keep other passengers safe."

Transit police statement

Accused of black magic

Inmate testifies about Scrabble attack that left him blind in one eye

A man who was stabbed in the eye with a pencil by another inmate during a jailhouse game of Scrabble says his attacker accused him of casting black magic.

Michel Fourgere told court on Tuesday he was caught off guard when he was grabbed by fellow inmate Mark Lindsay at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre last year.

Court heard Fourgere lost sight in one of his eyes in the attack.

Fourgere was visibly emotional and wore dark glasses during his testimony and declined comment to reporters after his court appearance.

Lindsay admitted to the Scrabble attack in court last week, and also admitted to slashing an undercover police officer and to murdering his former girlfriend.

On Thursday, Lindsay's lawyer, Don Campbell, said the judge ordered the psychiatric assessment to help determine if Lindsay is not criminally responsible for his actions because of a mental disorder.

The 30-day psychiatric assessment will be conducted in Vancouver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

American Michelle Wie signs autographs on Tuesday after practising for the CN Canadian Women's Open LPGA golf tournament at the Vancouver Golf Club in Coquitlam. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giving back is par for the course

CN Miracle Match.
Funds raised go towards B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

The world's top female golfers are swinging for a good cause.

The 2012 CN Canadian Women's Open Golf Championship — featuring golfers like Canadian legend Lori Kane, defending champion Brittany Lincicome, Michelle Wie, and world No. 1 Yani Tseng — runs until Sunday.

Funds raised through CN Miracle Match, a national charitable initiative, will be given to the B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation. The campaign has already raised more than $50,000.

Natasha Feuchuk said she is proud to be the campaign's child ambassador because it's a way for her to give back to the hospital that's done so much for her.

The 15-year-old was diagnosed with a rare heart defect at birth and had her first heart surgery when she was only 10 days old.

She needed another surgery when she was nine after she began to tire easily and suffer chest pains.

"I was really scared and having nightmares," Feuchuk said, adding hospital staff gave her a "Heart and Soul" binder that helped her prepare for the surgery and other helpful information. "I read through that and it really helped get over my fears."

Hospital foundation spokesman Stephen Forgacs said the money will help the hospital better care for children, provide support for their families, and maintain or update equipment.

It will also go to "research which helps us develop better treatments so that future generations of children don't have to endure the same hardships that kids might today," he said.

Registration deadline nears for hearings on redrawing electoral boundaries

The Aug. 30 deadline is fast approaching for citizens to register for public hearings on proposed changes to B.C.'s federal electoral districts.

B.C. is getting six new ridings, thanks to increasing populations in Vancouver, Chilliwack, the North Shore, on Vancouver Island, in the Okanagan, and in the Kamloops area.

"I don't think they've ever added that many seats before in B.C., so it means there's an opportunity to have some significant changes in the boundaries," said Norman Ruff, a University of Victoria political science professor emeritus who sat on the B.C. Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission in the early '90s.

Vancouver Centre Liberal MP Hedy Fry is worried about losing her seat, according to media reports, as the proposed redistribution map would see her riding gain a lot more voters who supported the NDP in the last election.

"You have this kind of mix (at these hearings) of political self-interest plus people who are generally concerned about their community," Ruff explained. KATE WEBB/METRO

This map shows how Vancouver's federal electoral boundaries could be redrawn. HANDOUT/FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION FOR B.C.

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Aberdeen Centre
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Aberdeen Centre
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New study. Planned salary increases in B.C. will lag behind national average

British Columbians can expect lower-than-average salary increases over the next year, and a recent report suggests the public sector is to blame.

The Hay Group, a global consulting firm, asked approximately 500 Canadian employers what salary increases they expected to give their employees in 2013.

On average, employers said they would hand their staff a 2.9 per cent raise.

So-called "resource-rich" provinces were the clear winners, with projected salary increases of between 3.2 and 3.6 per cent. And B.C. came in slightly behind the national average at 2.7 per cent.

"Employers are certainly not in a position to be aggressive with increases with the economy the way it is," said Tracy Bosch, with Hay Group, about the low salary increases.

In B.C., private-sector employees can expect a higher salary increase than those in the public sector.

According to the study, private-sector employees will see their base salary rise by 2.8 per cent in 2013, whereas public-sector employees will receive a projected 2.3 per cent increase.

Quoted

"Employers are certainly not in a position to be aggressive with increases with the economy the way it is."

Tracy Bosch of Hay Group, which conducted the study

The difference is even more striking when comparing the private sector to non-unionized public-sector employees. They have a projected salary increase of just 1.8 percent.

However, that could change if the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU), gets the 3.5 per cent wage it's asking for.

Public-sector wage freezes have left some government employees without a salary increase since 2009.

Even if they get the increase they're asking for, BCGEU members would still be far behind salary increases prior to 2008, when the national average was about 3.7 per cent.

ELIZABETH HAMES/FOR METRO

Curiosity just the start for Mars exploration, says UBC researcher

Core-drilling project. Geophysicist is the only Canadian with NASA's InSight mission

ELIZABETH HAMES
vancouver@metronews.ca

Weeks after NASA released stunning images from Mars' red landscape, one UBC researcher aspires to look beyond the planet's surface to uncover the mysteries of its core.

Catherine Johnson, a UBC geophysicist, is the sole Canadian to join NASA's InSight mission.

In 2016, the InSight lander will launch to Mars and will dig five metres below the surface to collect information about the planet's interior, marking the first time anyone has drilled into the core of another planet.

The lander will send about 60 gigabytes of data back to Earth over a two-year period (one Mars year). Johnson faces the mammoth task of sifting through it all.

But the information she gathers from Mars will be invaluable to understanding our own planet, she said.

Mars used to have a magnetic field and an atmosphere thick enough to support flowing water, said Johnson.

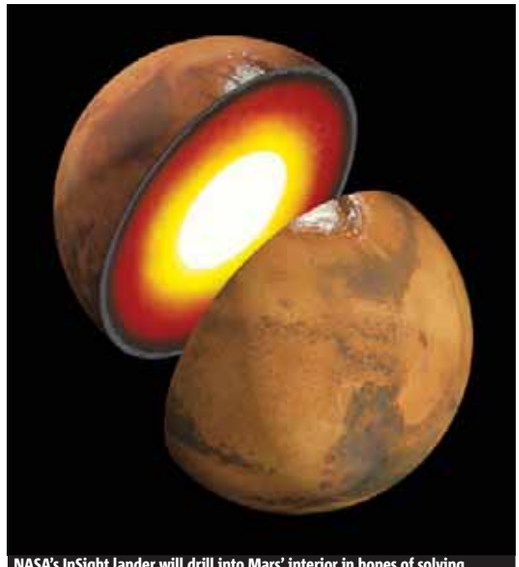
But millions, possibly billions, of years ago, Mars lost its field and its atmosphere, approximately around the same time.

Are the two disappearances connected? Scientists don't know, but Johnson hopes her research will help answer that question.

If she does solve the mystery, it will teach us all more about how our own magnetic field and atmosphere are related, and whether one depends on the other for existence.

Questions about the planet's core aren't the only riddles the InSight team is looking to solve.

Earlier this year, a study led by University of London scientist Gerald Roberts suggested there was evidence of marsquakes — or earthquakes on Mars — in photos taken by NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.



NASA's InSight lander will drill into Mars' interior in hopes of solving mysteries about the planet's past. It may also answer some questions about our own planet. JPL/NASA

Roberts said the marsquakes may have been be caused by active volcanoes, which could help create conditions for liquid water.

Johnson said her research should help determine once and for all whether volcano-caused marsquakes do indeed exist.

Kelowna. Special-interest flags flushed after furor

A furor over flags in Kelowna has forced an end to a long-standing tradition in that Okanagan city.

Councillors have voted to get rid of Kelowna's courtesy flag pole, meaning special-interest groups will no longer be permitted to fly their flags above city hall.

The decision stems from controversy that erupted after a group opposed to abortion announced it had won the right to fly its banner during so-called "protect human life week," next month.

Council originally rejected the wording of the first banner and requested a second proposal.

When that offering was also deemed to be too political, councillors unanimously endorsed a motion to scrap the flying of all special-interest flags.

Now, only municipal, provincial and national flags will flutter above Kelowna City Hall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coquitlam

Inquest planned in arson death

The B.C. Coroners Service says it will hold an inquest into the death of a woman who was killed in a Coquitlam house fire. Fifty-nine-year-old Colette Marie Salemink lost her life in April 2010. Her son was charged with arson and manslaughter and found not criminally responsible by reason of a mental disorder. Juries at coroners' inquests make recommendations to prevent deaths under similar circumstances. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto	from $583 incl $339 base + $244 taxes & fees
Costa Rica	from $619 incl $311 base + $308 taxes & fees
London	from $674 incl $99 base + $575 taxes & fees
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Sydney	from $1369 incl $444 base + $925 taxes & fees

USA Short Breaks

Tulalip
Back to School Shopping
2 Nights
$152◊ from
incl $138 base + $14 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Tulalip area resort-style accom during the Labour Day weekend.

Portland 3 Nights from $144 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES downtown accom near Rose Garden Arena and the Portland Art Museum.
UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $9 per night.

Seattle 3 Nights from $239 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in the University District.
UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $20 per night.
ADD city pass discount card from $71.

Canada Short Breaks

Osoyoos 2 Nights
$197 from
taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom on a private beachfront.

Whistler 2 Nights from $139 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES all-suite accom in the Village.

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights from $174 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom on Harrison Lake. **ADD** 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $36 per day.

Sunshine Coast 2 Nights from $184 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES award winning, oceanview accom on Halfmoon Bay.

Tofino 2 Nights from $224 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom at Mackenzie Beach.
UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $15 per night.

Kelowna 2 Nights 4-Star from $264 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in the Okanagan Wine Region.
ADD Taste, Savour and Indulge wine tour from $153.

Canada

Montreal Air + 3 Nights from $699 incl $540 base + $159 taxes & fees
INCLUDES central accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $24 per night. **ADD** first class city tour from $56.

Toronto Air + 3 Nights from $736 incl $564 base + $172 taxes & fees
INCLUDES downtown accom. **ADD** Niagara Falls night excursion from $153.

Cruises

Hawaii
16-Night Cruise
$1172 from
incl $1067 base + $105 taxes & fees
CRUISE roundtrip Vancouver visiting Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and Oahu. **UPGRADE** to outside stateroom from $9 per night.

Seattle 1 Night + 1-Night Cruise from $292 incl $230 base + $62 taxes & fees
INCLUDES bus transfer to Seattle, accom near the University District and cruise sailing from Seattle to Vancouver.

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights + 2-Night Cruise from $678 incl $565 base + $113 taxes & fees
INCLUDES all airfare, 2-night cruise sailing Vancouver to San Francisco, and 3 nights Vegas accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to balcony stateroom and 4-star accom from $33 per night.

New Orleans
Air + 3 Nights + 7-Night Cruise from $1512 incl $1299 base + taxes & fees $213
INCLUDES airfare, 3 nights French Quarter accom and cruise sailing roundtrip New Orleans visiting Mexico, Belize and Honduras.

Vacations

Shanghai
Air + 6 Nights 4-Star
$988 from
incl $520 base + $468 taxes & fees
INCLUDES central accom near the Bund.

United Kingdom
Air + 7 Nights + Car from $1374 incl $799 base + $575 taxes & fees
INCLUDES airfare, car rental to explore England, Scotland and Wales and vouchers for Hotel & Inn accom.

Costa Rica
Air + 8 Nights 4-Star from $1392 incl $1086 base + $306 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Liberia beach accom with on-site golf course. **BONUS** daily breakfast included.
ADD rainforest hanging bridges tour from $90.

Buenos Aires Air + 8 Nights from $1394 incl $806 base + $588 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near Plaza Libertad, Teatro Colon and Plaza San Martin. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** tango show from $73.

Cook Islands
Air + 12 Nights 4-Star from $2649 incl $2208 base + $441 taxes & fees
INCLUDES Rarotonga luxury accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast and $100NZD resort credit included.

USA

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
$239* from
incl $172 base + $67 taxes & fees
INCLUDES airfare from Bellingham and accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $23 per night.

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights from $235◊ incl $161 base + $74 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-day 1-Park Per Day Ticket from $222/adult, $207/child (ages 3-9).

Scottsdale
Air + 3 Nights 5-Star from $504 incl $379 base + $125 taxes & fees
INCLUDES ranch accom with on-site golf course and waterpark. **ADD** 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $21 per day.

Palm Springs
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from $569 incl $429 base + $140 taxes & fees
INCLUDES downtown accom near restaurants and shopping.

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights from $585 incl $459 base + $126 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near Union Square.
UPGRADE to 4-star accom from $47 per night.
ADD trolley hop from $22.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights from $710 incl $549 base + $161 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom near Waikiki Beach.

Napa Valley
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star + Car from $793 incl $667 base + $126 taxes & fees
INCLUDES accom in Sonoma Wine Country and a 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage.
ADD evening winery tour from $226.

New York Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from $805 incl $619 base + $186 taxes & fees
INCLUDES downtown Manhattan accom.

All-inclusive Vacations

Riviera Nayarit
7 Nights 4.5-Star
$725 from
incl $385 base + $340 taxes & fees

Los Cabos 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $765 incl $525 base + $240 taxes & fees
Riviera Maya 7 Nights 5-Star	from $839 incl $498 base + $341 taxes & fees

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Kroeger proposed

Avril's singing a love song

It's a new Canadian musical power couple: People magazine is reporting that pop star Avril Lavigne and Nickelback frontman Chad Kroeger are engaged.

Lavigne, 27, and Kroeger, 37, first got together in February to co-write a song for Lavigne's upcoming album.

Now after a six-month relationship, they are planning to get married, a Lavigne aide said.

On Aug. 8, Kroeger reportedly proposed, presenting Lavigne with a 14-carat diamond ring.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1,394 complaints

Election scandal may be widening

Complaints about fraudulent or misleading telephone calls in last year's federal election have almost doubled, say court documents filed by election officials.

By mid-August, Elections Canada had received 1,394 complaints "alleging specific occurrences" in 234 of 308 ridings, a lawyer says. The investigation has centred on Guelph, Ont., where residents say they received automated phone calls directing them to a wrong polling station.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$60,000 tab

Toronto mayor insists: No driver

Toronto's mayor, who raised eyebrows when he was spotted reading behind the wheel, says he won't be getting a personal driver.

The expense of a chauffeur would be a "waste of taxpayers' money," Rob Ford told reporters.

He said a private driver would add up to $60,000 to the municipal tab.

Ford has said he uses his morning commute to keep pace with his busy work schedule. He has also come under fire for using his cellphone while driving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lighthouse gets a facelift

Workers strip paint from Nova Scotia's iconic lighthouse at Peggy's Cove on Tuesday. The repainting project will take about two weeks. The lighthouse is said to be one of the most photographed structures in Atlantic Canada. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

'She wasn't a whacko' — murder victim ID'd

Body parts found in waterways. 'Nice and normal' Guang Hua Liu was a single mother of three and owned holistic spa in Toronto

A police officer holds a photo of victim Guang Hua Liu. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Body parts found scattered in Toronto-area waterways belonged to a single mother of three, police say.

Guang Hua Liu, 41, worked at a Toronto body-rub parlour for a year before leaving to start her own business.

"Her life was good enough that she opened her own business," said Bei-Bei Ni, who owns Asia Studios, where Liu worked for a year.

"Of course we're all sad.... She was a nice, normal person. She wasn't a whacko."

She was last seen by friends late in the afternoon on Aug. 10 as they dropped her off at her new spa in east Toronto, Peel Regional Police said at a news conference.

On Aug. 15 her right foot was found in the Credit River in Mississauga, about 45 kilometres west of where she lived in east-end Toronto.

Liu's head and hands were later discovered in the river in Hewick Meadows Park area.

Over the weekend, two calves, a thigh and an arm were found in West Highland Creek in east-end Toronto.

She had three children — one is an adult and the other two live with their father, said Insp. George Koekkoek.

Police are treating the case as a homicide. Koekkoek said, "We're satisfied to this stage there's no threat or danger to the public safety. If we have information to the contrary we'll be the first to advise."

Neighbour Lillian Lantz said Liu had a boyfriend named Ken who reported her missing to police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A spa called Forget Me Not

Liu was the owner of a holistic spa called Forget Me Not, said a woman with a Toronto firm that rented the space.

- **Monthly lease.** Liu signed a month-by-month agreement, the woman said, adding: "She was very nice and quiet."
- **A citizen.** Liu was a Canadian citizen, police said.

Rat crisis. Alberta city may need a Pied Piper

The rat population found in a landfill in Medicine Hat, Alta., appears to be spreading to cushier digs.

Bylaw superintendent Fred Crittenden says the rodents are being discovered in residential areas. All appear to be the same species as the more than 80 Norway rats that have been found in the dump since earlier this month.

Crittenden said traps will be put up around the city.

"Our pest control company is setting up bait stations at various locations," he said.

"Those are going to be checked on a regular basis to see what kind of activity we're having on them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swine flu. Keep pigs away from fairs, expert says

Swine flu spreads from pigs to people. And fairs may be to blame, a U.S. expert says. KYLE ROBERTSON/COLUMBUS DISPATCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's been found in pigs and/or people in more than 10 U.S. states and counting.

In less than a month, more than 200 people — most of them young children — have been infected by an unwanted visitor to many of the state and county fairs held at this time of year.

A new swine flu virus is infecting a growing number of people in the United States.

And flu expert Michael Osterholm says it's time to tell fair organizers that pigs should stay home from the fair.

"I'm convinced that wherever you have pigs and fairs right now you're seeing this transmission," said Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Diseases Research and Policy. "These pigs shouldn't be at the fairs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cancun

Croc bites off man's hand

Mexican authorities say a crocodile attacked a homeless man and bit off his right hand near a lagoon in the resort city of Cancun.

Cancun tourist police say in a Tuesday statement that Alejandro Lopez was wandering near an area of mangroves when he was attacked.

Police found the 27-year-old man lying on the shore of the Nichupte lagoon Monday and took him to a hospital.

The crocodile attack occurred near the hotel and nightclub area in Cancun, where signs warn of the presence of the reptiles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASA

Curiosity getting ready for Mars

Scientists on Tuesday prepared to send Curiosity on its first test drive over the billion-year-old rocks of Mars and said a busted wind sensor won't jeopardize its mission of determining whether life could exist there.

Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena turned four of the rover's six wheels in place this week in a successful "wheel wiggle" to test the steering for Wednesday's trek, mission manager Mike Watkins said.

"We are go for our first drive tomorrow," he said. "You will definitely see tracks." THE ASSOCIATES PRESS

Reno

Loose screw may have caused crash

U.S. federal safety regulators are focusing on loose screws in the tail of a World War II-era fighter plane modified to race faster than 800 km/h as a likely cause of the horrific crash that killed the pilot and 10 others during air races at the Reno National Championship Air Races last September.

The National Transportation Safety Board released nearly 1,000 pages of documents and photographs on Tuesday while continuing to investigate the official cause of the accident that also injured more than 70 people at Reno Stead Airport. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Endangered whale sightings on the increase

California. Bumper harvest of krill bringing hungry humpbacks and blues close to Monterey Bay shore

Quoted

"When you see a whale in the wild, it's a life-changing experience.... You're never the same person after you've had that kind of encounter with a wild animal."

Maureen Gilbert, on-board naturalist for Santa Cruz Whale Watching

Grab your camera and binoculars: There's rarely been a better time to go whale-watching off the California coast.

Tourists from around the world have been flocking to Monterey Bay to catch a glimpse of the massive marine mammals, including impressive numbers of blue whales — the largest animals on earth.

Longtime observers say they've seen a sharp increase in endangered blue and humpback whales feeding near Californian shores, where they spend the spring and summer before heading to their winter breeding grounds off Mexico and Central America.

"It's phenomenal that these humongous creatures are out there and we just get to go out on a boat and go out and watch them," said Santa Cruz resident Susan Stuart after a recent whale-watching cruise.

What's bringing the whales so close to shore? A bumper harvest of their favourite food: tiny, shrimp-like critters known as krill. Strong northwest winds have been pushing up cold, nutrient-rich waters from the ocean bottom — a phenomenon known as upwelling. That has fuelled blooms of phytoplankton that have led to an explosion of krill, the main food source of blue and humpback whales.

The abundance of whales has been a boon to boat tour operators in Monterey Bay, whose deep underwater canyon makes it one of the best places to see whales, dolphins and other marine life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whale-ship collisions

The rebound in whale populations has led to a new problem: more collisions with the giant cargo ships heading in and out of San Francisco Bay.

- "When a ship strikes a whale, it's usually not a good outcome. Often times the vertebrae are broken and the whale dies," said Maria Brown, superintendent of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

Spectators watch whales off the coast of southern California.
CAPTAIN DAVID ANDERSON'S DOLPHIN AND WHALE SAFARI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women enjoy some waves during Eid

Arab women enjoy the beach in Tel Aviv during the third day of Eid al-Fitr on Tuesday. One of the most important holidays in the Muslim world, Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan and is celebrated with prayers, family reunions and other festivities.
ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heroic. Prince William comes to the rescue ... again

Four days after saving a 16-year-old girl from drowning off the coast of Wales, Prince William came to the rescue of an injured Canadian tourist in North Wales.

Darlene Burton, 58, of Barrie, Ont., was hiking with her husband along the coast on the island of Anglesey when she fell and broke a leg on Monday.

Her husband, Lawrence Oakley, says a helicopter was called in to transfer Burton to a local hospital.

Oakley says a Royal Air Force Sea King helicopter arrived shortly after and that's when they noticed that Prince William was the pilot.

Burton was flown to a hospital in Bangor, Wales, where she underwent surgery.

Prince William THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Prince William has been a search-and-rescue pilot with the British Royal Air Force since September 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yukon. Harper shares more of his vision for the North

Prime Minister Stephen Harper expanded his vision of resource riches fuelling Canada's future and he's vowing to streamline environmental approvals to make those projects a reality.

Harper made the remarks Tuesday as he signed a revised resource-royalty-sharing agreement with the Yukon government that he said would ensure territory residents benefit from the "boom" in mineral exploration and development over the coming decades.

"Northern development must mean northern prosperity,' he said in a speech.

Harper kicked off his annual northern tour on Monday, touting the benefits of the resource economy to Canada's North but said it requires changes to environmental oversight to ensure projects become a reality in a "responsible manner."

Quoted

"Such is the magnitude of the North's resource wealth that we are only quite literally just scratching the surface."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

"We need thorough, balanced science-based assessments conducted on a timely basis according to the principle of one project, one review," Harper said.

He said nine producing mines across the North are providing work for thousands of people and another 24 projects representing $38 billion have the potential to add thousands more. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Lougheed Mall
Metropolis at Metrotown
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4711 Kingsway
3855 Henning Dr.

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
Eagle Landing
45300 Luckakuck Way
7544 Vedder Rd.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
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3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2988 Glen Dr.
1071 Austin Ave.
2700B Barnet Hwy.

Delta
4912 62nd St.
4841 Delta St.
Scottsdale Centre
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley
8700 200th St.
8840 210th St.
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
19638 Fraser Hwy.
19700 Langley Bypass
20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
Haney Place Mall
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1392 Main St.

Pitt Meadows
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Ironwood Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
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Grandview Corners
Guildford Town Centre
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Spain suspects wildfire was started deliberately

Disaster area.
11,000 wildfires have burned 1,400 square kilometres of woodland since Jan. 1

Some 500 soldiers have been deployed to help battle a wildfire authorities believe was started intentionally, which has burned 80 square kilometres in northern Spain.

Aerial images showed clouds of smoke billowing skyward as the blaze cut across pine tree hillsides around the town of Castrocontrigo, some 320 kilometres northwest of Madrid.

Castrocontrigo Mayor Aureliano Fernandez told Cadena SER radio Tuesday that authorities believe the fire was started intentionally and the person responsible tried to start one in the area last week.

The Agriculture Ministry says most of the 11,000 wildfires between Jan. 1 and Aug. 14, have been started by people. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

A firefighter walks past trees on fire in Tabuyo del Monte near Leon, Spain, on Tuesday. Some 500 soldiers have been deployed to help battle a wildfire authorities believe was started intentionally. PEDRO ARMESTRE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil

Devil didn't make him do it: Court

A Sao Paulo court has ordered the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, one of Brazil's biggest evangelical churches, to pay $5,000 to Alcione Saturnino dos Santos, a follower who says he was beaten by pastors who allegedly thought he had been "possessed by the devil" while having an epileptic attack in 2001. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pussy Riot

Hackers make court face music

Russian hackers have attacked the website of a Moscow court where three members of the Pussy Riot punk band were tried and sentenced to two years in jail.

The Russian offshoot of the loose-knit movement known as Anonymous tweeted they posted Pussy Riot's latest song ridiculing President Vladimir Putin on the website, along with calls to release the band members. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ecuador

Lava erupts from Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano, Tuesday. DOLORES OCHOA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volcano erupts

Ecuadorean authorities have evacuated 110 families from the vicinity of the Tungurahua volcano, 135 kilometres southeast of Quito, which has been spewing molten rock, ash and lava since the weekend. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Russia

Bra-zen murder

Russian investigators say a 26-year-old woman in the town of Zakamensk in East Siberia strangled her 65-year-old neighbour to death with her bra in a drunken rage when he refused to lend her money to buy drinks. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Example: $10,000 at 3.49% APR, the monthly payment is $135.45 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $1,265.65. Total obligation is $11,265.65. Based on a 48 month lease. Rate of 0% advertised on new or demonstrator 2012 Sonic LT & LTZ equipped as described. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000km. $0.16 per excess kilometer GM, by GM Financial. Monthly payments may vary depending on down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is $208.33 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is $0. Total obligation is $10,000. Offer is in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and restrictions may apply. See your dealer for complete details. ††††2012 Ford Fiesta S, All models with manual transmission (freight included, tax excluded). Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 3.49% APR, the monthly payment is $135.45 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $1,265.65. Total obligation is $11,265.65. 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"With my previous provider I didn't have unlimited anything. And now, I have unlimited everything. It's great."

BRANDY P.
From Calgary, WIND Customer since January 2012

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Lawyer wants judge case quashed

Manitoba. Head of inquiry into explicit photos says panel can't be judge and referee

The future of a Canadian Judicial Council inquiry into a Manitoba judge and her naked photos may hang on one question — can the panel overseeing the case also grill witnesses under cross-examination?

The issue is threatening to derail the inquiry into Lori Douglas, whose husband uploaded sexually explicit photos of her to the Internet in 2003, when the couple practised family law at a Winnipeg firm.

Douglas's lawyer, Sheila Block, is upset that the panel's own lawyer, George Macintosh, is participating in the proceedings and aggressively cross-examining witnesses.

She is asking the Federal Court of Canada to quash the inquiry, saying it has shown bias against her client. Block said Macintosh has engaged in "aggressive and argumentative questions, sexist and insulting references ... and attacks on (Douglas's) character and credibility."

The independent lawyer leading the inquiry, Guy Pratte, has also objected to Macintosh's questioning, saying the inquiry committee cannot act as both a referee of the proceedings and an active participant. The committee defends it has no option but to question witnesses.

"An inquiry committee retains a responsibility to search for the truth. It is performing a vital fact-finding mission," members wrote in a document, which details their decision last month rejecting Block's request to halt the inquiry.

The committee's lawyer grilled Douglas's husband, Jack King, last month about his claim that Douglas never knew he had kept nude photos of her and uploaded them to the Internet.

Macintosh suggested it is hard to believe that Douglas never even asked what King was doing with the photos.

King uploaded photos of Douglas to an interracial-sex website. He also emailed photos to a client named Alexander Chapman and asked him to have sex with Douglas.

Chapman complained to King's law firm and King settled the matter by paying Chapman $25,000 to return all photos and never discuss the matter.

Chapman broke that deal in 2010 by complaining to the judicial council, insisting Douglas was part of the sexual harassment.

Douglas has denied all allegations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Behind the inquiry

- The inquiry is part public, part disciplinary hearing by a governing body.
- The five-member committee includes chief justices of Alberta, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as two private lawyers.
- Nine inquiries into judges have been held in 40 years, one recommending a judge be removed.

Yongbyon complex

N. Korea a step closer to light-water reactor

A new satellite image shows North Korea has completed a key step in the construction of a light-water reactor at its main nuclear complex, though it may take several more years before it is fully operational, an analyst said Tuesday. North Korea says the reactor is for electricity generation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Alleged neo-Nazis on trial

Twenty-six alleged neo-Nazis are on trial in Germany on accusations they were responsible for a spate of attacks on leftists in western Germany. The men are aged 19 to 54. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maryland train derailment kills two on tracks

Officials inspect part of a CSX freight train that derailed alongside a parking lot overnight in Ellicott City, Md., on Tuesday. Authorities say the train, hauling coal from West Virginia to Maryland, derailed and fell from a bridge near Baltimore, killing two college students who were on the tracks. Howard County officials say 21 of the train's 80 cars flipped over around midnight Monday. PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NYPD. Not one terrorist lead reaped from spying

In more than six years of spying on Muslim neighbourhoods, eavesdropping on conversations and cataloguing mosques, the New York Police Department's secret demographics unit never generated a lead or triggered a terrorism investigation, the department acknowledged in court testimony unsealed late Monday.

The demographics unit is at the heart of a police-spying program, built with help from the CIA, which assembled databases on where Muslims lived, shopped, worked and prayed. Police infiltrated Muslim student groups, put informants in mosques, monitored sermons and catalogued every Muslim in New York who adopted new, Americanized surnames.

Police hoped the unit would serve as an early-warning system for terrorism. And if police ever got a tip about, say, an Afghan terrorist in the city, they'd know where he was likely to rent a room, buy groceries and watch sports.

But in a June 28 deposition as part of a long-standing federal civil-rights case, Assistant Chief Thomas Galati said none of the conversations the officers overheard led to a case.

The NYPD is the largest police department in the U.S., and Mayor Michael Bloomberg has held up its counterterrorism tactics as a model. Supporters argued that the demographics unit was central to keeping the city safe. Galati testified that it was an important tool but conceded it had not generated any leads. "I never made a lead from rhetoric that came from a demographics report, and I'm here since 2006," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Politico censured over rape remark in defence of Assange

Britain. WikiLeaks founder was accused of sex offences during a trip to Sweden in 2010

A British lawmaker was chastised by the leader of his own political party Tuesday over his claim that the sex acts WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is alleged to have committed do not constitute rape.

George Galloway, a leftist political outsider who represents the anti-war Respect party, attempted to defend Assange in a video blog posted Sunday, saying that accusations against him showed "bad sexual etiquette, but whatever else it is, it is not rape."

Assange has fought for two years to avoid extradition to Sweden to be questioned over allegations of sexual molestation, unlawful coercion and rape made by two women. For the last two months, he has been hiding out in Ecuador's Embassy in London, where he is out of reach of British authorities.

A placard of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is seen outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London on Tuesday.
ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Even taken at its worst, if the allegations made by these two women were true, 100 per cent true, and even if a camera in the room captured them, they don't constitute rape. At least not rape as anyone with any sense can possibly recognize it," Galloway said in the video. "It might be really sordid and bad sexual etiquette, but whatever else it is, it is not rape or you bankrupt the term rape of all meaning."

Salma Yaqoob, leader of the Respect Party, said Galloway's remarks on "what constitutes rape are deeply disappointing and wrong."

One woman accuses Assange of intentionally damaging a condom during sex. A second woman claims he had sex with her while she was asleep, which can be considered rape under Swedish law.

In a statement Tuesday, Galloway defended his remarks and insisted that Assange's actions would not constitute rape in Britain. However, British courts have rejected that claim in Assange's appeal hearings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Enjoy this winning favourite road trip story and then get writing!

My favourite road trip was during one of the hottest summers in history. We piled into our little 1976 Mustang and after a few hours on the road we had to pull into a small town. The transmission was blown! I remember my Dad driving away backwards in the only gear that worked to find a service station. After an overnight stay, the car was fixed and we finally arrived at our destination. The timeshare is located on a golf course surrounded by majestic pine trees that were full of squirrels. Somehow, the thought of placing a trail of peanuts from the deck to the living room was the next best idea since sliced bread. It actually worked and one friendly squirrel didn't seem to mind until someone slammed the balcony door shut. One thing we observed years before that Sci-Fi movie came out, a living animal can run straight up a wall and as a family we can certainly scream and make a lot of commotion. Finally, it was safely whisked outside with a broom. After a fun week of swimming and squirrel wrangling, it was time to head back home. But the fun didn't end there, as we were driving back a sudden rain downpour blew something hard against our windshield and my Dad stopped to investigate. We didn't really know what happened until a few hours later when my Dad announced we were having duck for dinner. It was a road trip that I will never forget.

Our congratulations go to,

Edwin Sanchez
Calgary, AB

Turkey

Girl dies of wounds in bomb attack

A 12-year-old girl became the ninth victim Tuesday of a bomb blast in Turkey's southeast, which has highlighted fears that Kurdish rebels seeking self rule are becoming emboldened by moves toward autonomy by the Kurdish minority in war-torn Syria. Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay said the girl had died of her wounds and that three other children were among those killed when a bomb concealed in a vehicle exploded Monday night near the Syrian border.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France

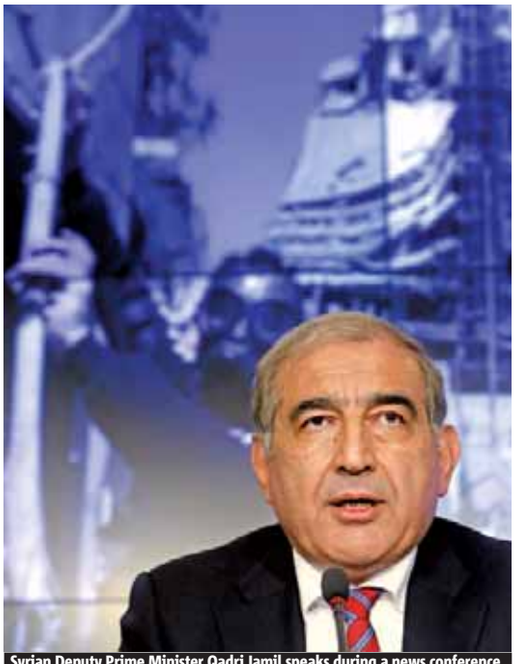
Floor plans to presidential palace stolen

The French government says thieves who broke into a vehicle at a Paris train station made off with a USB drive and disks containing floor plans for the French presidential palace, the main security agency and the Paris police department.

The Interior Ministry said Tuesday that the stolen documents weren't classified and that their disappearance put no one in danger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian minister warns against U.S. intervention



Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil speaks during a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday. SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil war. Qadri Jamil called Obama's warning over use of chemical weapons 'propagandistic threats'

President Barack Obama's warning over chemical weapons in Syria indicates the West is looking for a pretext for military intervention, a senior Syrian government official said Tuesday following talks in Moscow.

Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil warned against any such intervention.

"Those who are contemplating this evidently want to see the crisis expand beyond Syria's borders," he told journalists in comments translated into Russian. The Syrian civil war, which began with a popular uprising in March 2011, is already spilling into neighbouring Lebanon.

Obama said Monday the U.S. would reconsider its opposition to military involvement in Syria if President Bashar Assad's regime deployed or used chemical or biological weapons.

Jamil described Obama's statements as "propagandistic threats" connected with the U.S. presidential election. However, he also said they indicate that "the West is looking for a pretext to intervene militarily," adding, "we must say that such intervention is impossible."

Russia, which along with China has steadfastly backed Syria and blocked UN sanctions on Assad's regime, earlier warned Syria against using chemical and biological weapons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Negotiations

Jamil said the government would be willing to discuss Assad's resignation but only after the opposition agreed to join in negotiating a peaceful settlement.

- "Making his resignation a condition for dialogue effectively makes holding such a dialogue impossible," Jamil said. "During the negotiating process any issues can be discussed, and we are ready to discuss even this issue."

Delaware. Daycare workers allegedly formed toddler fightclub

A child care centre in Delaware has had its business licence suspended after police arrested three employees who allegedly encouraged toddlers to fight.

The arrests were made Monday after police discovered a cellphone video of three women working at the Hands of Our Future daycare in Dover, the state capital, allegedly encouraging two three-year-olds to duke it out.

"He's pinching me," yells one child in the video.

"No pinching, only punching," is a worker's response, according to the Dover Police.

"It was a difficult video to watch," Dover Police Capt. Tim Stump told FoxNews.com. "One of the kids involved ran over to one of the adults for protection, but she turned him around back into the fight."

Tiana Harris, 21, Estefania Myers, 21 and Lisa Parker, 47, have been charged with multiple counts of assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

"It's very disturbing to think anything like that could go on," said Amy Bickerling, whose four-year-old son is enrolled at the centre, to Delawareonline.com. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Air Canada

Flight diverted for unruly passenger

An Air Canada flight en route to Calgary from London, England, had to be diverted due to an unruly passenger.

Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick says police boarded flight 851 in Edmonton on Monday afternoon and removed a male passenger.

Mounties say a drunk man allegedly assaulted a female crew member and another passenger, and did some minor damage to the Boeing 777. There were 349 passengers and 11 crew on board, and police say they subdued the man before the plane landed in Edmonton.

Thirty-five-year-old Justin Frank of Calgary is facing several charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Storms, jellyfish stings end 63-year-old's attempt to swim across Florida Straits

Diana Nyad ended her fourth attempt in nearly 35 years to swim across the Straits of Florida on Tuesday, her dream of setting a record thwarted by storms, jellyfish stings, shark threats, hypothermia and swollen lips.

In a blog posting, crew member Candace Hogan wrote that Nyad angrily shook her head after being pulled from the water and planned to return to finish the swim after the storms subsided.

"When can I get back in?" Hogan quoted the swimmer as saying. "I want full transparency that I was out. But I have plenty left in me and I want to go on."

Nyad, who turns 63 on Wednesday, was making her third attempt since last summer to become the first person to cross the Florida Straits without a shark cage. She also made a failed try with a cage in 1978.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Endurance swimmer Diana Nyad rests after being pulled out of the water between Cuba and the Florida Keys early Tuesday.
DIANA NYAD/THE FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stock. Facebook closes lower, erasing Monday's gains after Thiel sale

Facebook's battered stock closed lower Tuesday, erasing some of the gains it saw a day earlier.

Regulatory filings revealed Monday after the stock market closed that Peter Thiel, Facebook's first big investor, shed most of his holdings in the social networking icon.

Thiel is also a board member.

Thiel originally invested $500,000 in Facebook in 2004. He sold 16.8 million shares in the company's May 18 IPO and another 20 million or so late last week after a lockup period expired. In all, he's reaped more than $1 billion from the sales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PayPal founder and Facebook investor Peter Thiel. GETTY IMAGES

Deal. Soros takes stake in soccer club Man United

Billionaire financier George Soros is getting in on the game, taking a minority stake in soccer club Manchester United.

Soros disclosed in a regulatory filing on Monday that he owns 7.85 per cent of Manchester United's Class A shares. The filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission was made by Soros' hedge fund, Soros Fund Management LLC.

The 134-year-old English Premier League soccer club went public on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this month.

The American family that owns the team, the Glazers, have voting control over it through Class B shares that have 10 times the voting power of the stock sold to the public. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Management

RIM appoints new exec

Research In Motion has made another change in its leadership, appointing a new managing director of its U.K. & Ireland business as it readies the launch of the BlackBerry 10.

The company said Tuesday that Rob Orr would step into the key role starting Sept. 1. Orr has worked at RIM for more than six years, focused on global product management. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.04¢ US (-0.13¢)

TSX 12,116.92 (+40.89)

OIL $96.68 US (+71¢)

GOLD $1,642.90 US (+19.90)

Natural gas: $2.775 US (No change)
Dow Jones: 13,203.58 (-68.06)

Mowing down the competition with robotics

Honda Motor Co.'s Asimo robot, which walks and talks, shows off the company's new Miimo lawn mower. Honda is releasing its first product for the home, a sensor-equipped lawn mower packed with its prized robotics technology. Miimo goes on sale next year, retailing for around $3,000 — but only in Europe. The machine, which looks a bit like iRobot's Roomba vacuum cleaner, continuously shaves about three millimetres off the grass, manoeuvring itself on sloped areas. HONDA MOTOR CO./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian nickel firm snagged in Cuban corruption probe

Mining. Government officials and workers from joint Cuban-Canadian venture convicted in contract-expansion case

A Cuban court has convicted a dozen people of corruption, including high-ranking government officials, an executive at a state-run nickel company and workers from a project operating under a Cuban-Canadian joint concern, official media announced Tuesday.

In a case involving a contract for the expansion of the Pedro Soto Alba nickel and cobalt processing plant at the Moa mine, the sentences range from four to 12 years, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported.

The court in the eastern province of Holguin took into account "the gravity of these acts and their harmful consequences in one of the strategic activities for the nation's economy, and the conduct of the accused, characterized by the loss of ethical values and deception," the bulletin read.

The announcement was the first official confirmation of a probe that since last year has been the source of rumour and private discussion by diplomats on the island, part of a crackdown on graft that has caught up several foreigners and sent a chill through the small foreign business community.

The Moa Joint Venture that controls the mining operation is operated in tandem by Cuba and Toronto-based mining company Sherritt International Corp.

Moa currently produces 37,000 tons of nickel and cobalt per year, according to Sherritt's website. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Valuable resource

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Nickel revenues in Cuba are likely around $1.8 billion US for the year based on recently released overall export figures.

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Every once in a while, something wonderful this way comes.

In my case, that would be Cheryl Strayed, author of Wild, the New York Times bestseller that prompted Oprah to relaunch her book club.

Wild is a tour de force, a searing, soaring account of the author's 1,100-mile trek across the Pacific Crest Trail back in the '90s, when she was recovering from the death of her mother, a broken marriage and, oh, a heroin addiction.

If you have time left to add one to your summer reading list, I'd recommend Wild.

If Wild was the only reason to celebrate Cheryl Strayed's gifts as a writer, that would be enough. But there's more. She is also the heart, mind and soul behind Dear Sugar, the greatest advice column ever. Dear Sugar is a regular feature of therumpus.net, an online culture magazine. Strayed revealed that she was the writer behind Dear Sugar in February, and in July, Tiny Beautiful Things, a collection of her best advice, was published.

So far, it has spent its entire published existence on the New York Times bestseller list.

I'm recommending that you read Wild but I'm pleading with you to read Tiny Beautiful Things. It should be required reading for every struggling soul on the planet, and as far as I know, that's all of us.

Here's a sample. It's in response to an advice-seeker who is jealous of the success of fellow authors, especially those who score six-figure deals with their publishers. I can relate to that. Cheryl's diagnosis: "Could it be possible that the reason you feel like you swallowed a spoonful of battery acid every time someone gets what you want is because a long time ago — way back in your own very beginnings — you were sold a bill of goods about the relationship between money and success, fame and authenticity, legitimacy and adulation?"

Oh.

And here's her antidote: "But the people who don't give up … they've taken into their hearts the idea that there is enough for all of us, that success will manifest itself in different ways for different sorts of artists, that keeping the faith is more important than cashing the cheque, that being genuinely happy for someone else who got something you hope to get makes you genuinely happier too."

Wish I'd said that, especially the part about keeping the faith is more important than cashing the cheque.

But I'm not jealous, because Cheryl gives way more than she gets. And despite her (almost) overnight fame, she still turns up at readings for free and tutors aspiring writers, although, now that Reese Witherspoon has optioned Wild for some fabulous amount, it will be interesting to see if she can keep her feet on the ground.

Of course, she's pre-grounded. Trekking 1,100 miles through the Sierra Mountains lugging a 60-pound pack and wearing shoes that are too tight will do that to you.

Cheryl Strayed, author of Wild, the New York Times bestseller.
JONI KABANA/SUBMITTED

Knitting is child's play

NETPLAYWORKS/MASAKI KOIZUMI/REX FEATURES

Playful performance

Kids' playground knitted by artist

This crochet playground at the Takino Suzuran Hillside National Park in Sapporo, Japan, is made from thousands of pieces of nylon, created by hand over several months with a ton of yarn.

This is the brainchild of Japanese-born Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam and her Canadian husband, Charles MacAdam.

METRO

Artist's view

"We love how popular the playgrounds are. Sports are good for some people, but not every child. They should use their bodies and have fun."

Japanese-born artist
Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam

Origins of artwork

Kids climb, play and make art their own

After teaching textiles in the U.S. in the 1960s, Toshiko began exhibiting crochet art for museums. But when two children started playing on one of her pieces at a gallery in Japan, blissfully unaware of artwork etiquette, she watched nervously as they climbed into the structure, but was thrilled to find that her work suddenly came alive in ways she had never really anticipated. **METRO**

Guerrilla knit-wear

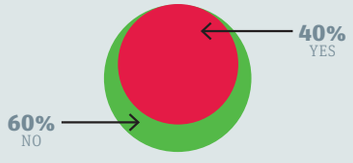
Today, crochet art goes like a bomb

Yarnbombing — covering objects in public spaces with knitted, crocheted material — has surged as a form of counter-culture art in recent years. Guerrilla artists worldwide boldly adorn famous urban structures and monuments with wool and now have their own International Yarnbombing Day, celebrated in June. **METRO**

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Does a new study saying egg yolks are almost as artery-clogging as smoking deter you from eating them?



Twitter

@zoemck:
At the #PNE trying all the deep-fried stuff. Highly recommend the Kool-Aid from Granny's. And an insulin booster.

@Maky8889:
#pne is packed solid today. Lots of ppl playing hookey. #startrek line-up is insane. Food prices crazy

@AriaRose11:
Vancouver should just be renamed "Hipster Town"

@793_brett:
I think Ryan Nugent Hopkins should go to the Bc Lions game everygame!!! #BcLions

@BCsDave:
Maybe im a bad seed but ive never seen the BC Lions push themselves enough in northern BC when they say theyre the Pride Of All BC.

@treeves7:
Tough loss for Canada's Little League team... they played really well but just fell short. #LLWS

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Celebrity reading room

Oscar-winning thespian Emma Thompson has revived Beatrix Potter's mischievous bunny. The Further Tale of Peter Rabbit, published 110 years after Peter's first adventure, is out in September. Thompson is the latest in a lengthy line of stars who have hopped on the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed celeb children's lit bandwagon.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Jay Leno: If Roast Beef Could Fly

The comedian churns a childhood memory into a breezy bedtime yarn that may leave tots salivating in their sleep over a giant hunk of juicy rotisserie meat. Leno's father is ready for his next project — a new patio, so they can throw an epic barbecue. The titular event occurs when Jay, mesmerized by the tasty revolving beef, jabs his plastic comb into it in a clumsy attempt to sneak a sample of the meat before mealtime. Jay's plan backfires when his comb gets stuck and melts.
Flavour: "My Dad's side of the family is Italian. Every Sunday we have 400 pounds of meatballs, half a ton of spaghetti!"

Jimmy Buffet and Savannah Buffet: The Jolly Mon

The Cheeseburger in Paradise crooner teamed up with his daughter on this laid-back escapist odyssey. Based on the beach balladeer's ditty Jolly Mon Sing, the dreadlock-rocking protagonist is a singing fisherman from the fictional Caribbean island of Bananaland. He finds an enchanted guitar floating in the bay that comes with instructions to play music around the world. Along the way the hero encounters a nefarious band of pirates led by One-Eyed Rosy and a groovy dolphin who saves his life.
Flavour: "The Jolly Mon had never played a guitar before, but the moment his fingers touched the strings, he knew how to play."

Julianne Moore: Freckleface Strawberry

Teased for her dotted complexion, Freckleface Strawberry, a nickname the famous redhead herself was bullied with as a child, tries all sorts of ways to hide her freckles — from soap and makeup to more drastic measures. It's an inspiring modern take on The Ugly Duckling plotline, only instead of transforming into a swan, she learns to accept and love the skin she's in. Sequels Freckleface Strawberry and the Dodgeball Bully and Freckleface Strawberry: Best Friends Forever keep the life lessons flowing. The series was also adapted into a theatrical production, Freckleface the Musical.
Flavour: "You have to meet the new girl. She wears a ski mask all the time."

Molly Shannon: Tilly the Trickster

The SNL alum's latest character is a squirrely little prankster, and everybody in her life, from family members and school chums to her teacher, are targets. Her sly antics continue unabated until the folks she plays tricks on the most often wise up and Tilly gets a taste of her own medicine. While filling cookies with toothpaste may not be as zany as Shannon's pratfalls as Mary Katherine Gallagher, four year olds seem to laugh just as hard.
Flavour: "First, I grab a paper cup from the cupboard. Then I carefully poke a hole in the side of the cup with a pencil. If this ever-so-clever trick works, water will spill through the hole when Daddy tips the cup to take a drink."

Madonna: The English Roses

The first of Madge's kiddy tomes centres around a group of London schoolgirls who exclude a classmate from their sleepovers and other soirees — they are jealous of how pretty and perfect she seems. When a fairy Godmother gives the gals a glimpse into the ostracized girl's world they discover that her mother passed away and she does all the household chores —and the Roses realize their folly.
Flavour: "It all sounds so perfectly fun and nice. And in many ways, it was. But there was only one problem. They were all a little bit jealous of another girl in the neighbourhood."

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On the web

Taylor Swift to perform at VMAs, Fierce 5 U.S. Olympic gymnasts to present at awards show

American Idol targeting new judges

Nicki Minaj

Time is running out for American Idol to fill up the judges' table for its 12th season, and producers are reportedly circling a couple of options for new talent. According to the Associated Press, "a deal is in the works" for singer Nicki Minaj to come on-board, joining Mariah Carey, who was added to the lineup last month. And a source tells People magazine that Enrique Iglesias is also in talks to join the reality singing competition. "Idol has expressed a lot of interest, but no final word on either side yet," the source says.

Twitter

@RedHourBen
Tony Scott made so many movies that influenced so many others. A genre to himself. A real loss. He entertained so many people.

@DebbieReynolds1
The world is a sadder place for all of us who love to laugh. I love Phyllis Diller. Comedy will never be the same and neither will I.

@JohnStamos
hate it when my stand-in is younger and better looking than me.

@Joan_Rivers
Hand specialists say one of the most common ailments they treat is "texting thumb." In showbiz it has to be "flipping-off middle finger."

Liberty Ross and Rupert Sanders

Liberty spreads wings on blog

Rupert Sanders' wife, Liberty Ross, is trying to send a message with her latest blog post for Vogue UK, but it's not entirely clear what that message is. Ross — who hasn't updated the blog since news broke of Sanders' affair with actress Kristen Stewart — published an image of an eagle with its wings spread under the title "Liberty," prompting many to speculate she's leaving Sanders. New York magazine insists the image "is meant to be a statement of freedom and independence," and commenters on Ross' blog seem to be taking it that way as well.

Rumours of Tony Scott illness not true: Family

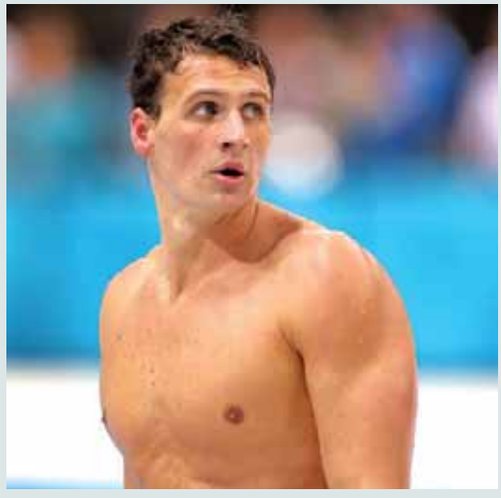
It appears there's no truth to the reports that director Tony Scott had been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer before he decided to jump to his death from a bridge over Los Angeles Harbor Sunday. "According to family spokespersons, the information concerning brain cancer or an inoperable brain tumor in Mr. Scott is incorrect," a spokesman for the L.A. coroner's office tells People magazine. The initial report of a cancer diagnosis came from ABC News, citing an anonymous source.

Tony Scott

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Ryan Lochte to hand out roses?

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

With four years until he's due in Rio, Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte is scoping out a side job in reality TV.

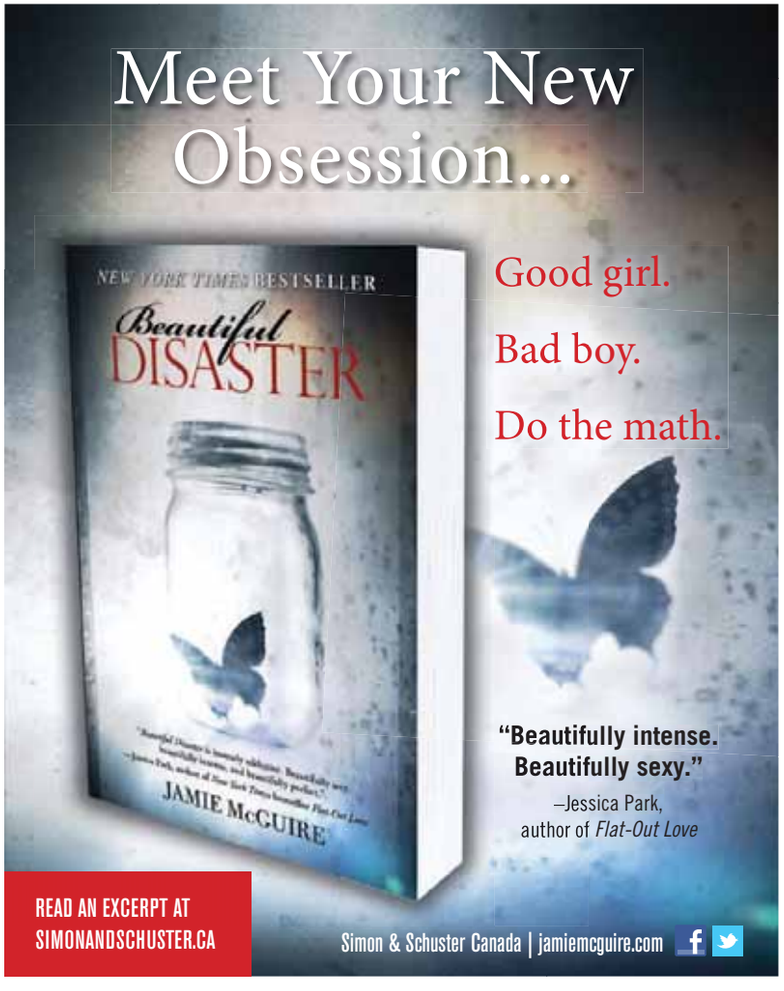
At the top of the list is The Bachelor, whose producers have been informed that they'll need to come up with at least $750,000 for such high-quality abs.

But even if they pay, Lochte may pass.

"Ryan is acutely aware that he has to attach himself to the right projects and endorsements that won't do damage to his all-American image," a source tells RadarOnline.

"As much as he'd like to do it, Ryan does have some reservations about The Bachelor because he wouldn't have any control on how he is portrayed on the show."

Ryan, at this point there's nothing more American than compromising your reputation, marriage and career in the name of fleeting fame. Consider this our blessing.



5 travel personalities

Planning a vacation is exciting, and made even more thrilling when you're going with someone special. Except it doesn't always work out perfectly. When it comes to packing and jumping on a plane, everyone has their own travel personality. Here's how to handle some of them.

MAE GIFFORD
life@metronews.ca

1 The over planner

You're in Paris and they're intent on touring the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower by noon on the first day. Keep up at this panicked rate and you're bound to see the entire City of Lights in record time, but won't remember any of it. Suggest one afternoon of people watching in a public square over a carafe of French wine. Their shoulders will drop in no time.

2 The person who hates travelling

They haven't travelled in years but somehow you convinced them to come on your dream cruise. Big mistake. They hate sleeping in a strange bed, new scenery, food, water and boats. Instead of throwing them overboard, try to compromise on activities you'll both enjoy. Joining them in the casino for a few hours (gag!) may translate into you getting the most out of your trip with fewer complaints.

3 The embarrassing keener

Armed with their Lonely Planet guidebook, which they studied for months, this friend will regurgitate every iota of information they know at each attraction you visit. Even better, they're hell-bent on speaking the language, which typically includes them shout-sputtering random words at locals. Nip this annoying behaviour in the bud by suggesting they'll get much more out of the experience if they don't have their nose stuck in a book the entire time. If all else fails, accidentally "lose" it.

4 The obvious tourist

Money belt? Check. Canadian flag in plain sight so no one confuses you with an American? Check. Comfortable New Balance walking shoes and socks that reach mid-calf? Check. Canadian tourists stick out like sore thumbs and it's not just embarrassing, it can also put you at risk for pickpocketing or schemers. The simple rule is to dress on vacation like you normally would. But if your wardrobe includes any of the above items, you can't be helped.

5 The under planner

They had no opinion on which country to see and now that you've landed, they're just along for the ride. Instead of getting frustrated at their lackadaisical attitude toward travel, embrace it! This is your opportunity to design the trip you've always wanted without any complaining. This type of personality can be convinced to do anything, so be as busy or relaxed as you like. The best part is that they're going to love the trip because they had no expectations.

LIFE 3

On the web

Fogo Island Inn and art gallery aim high with luxury rooms on the wild Atlantic.

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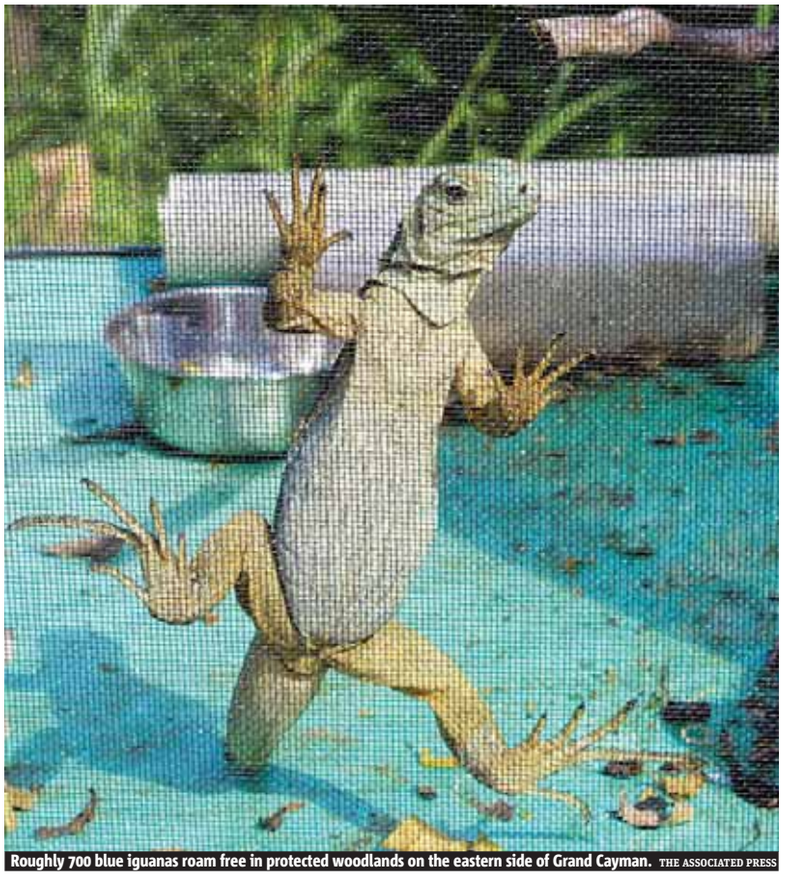

Roughly 700 blue iguanas roam free in protected woodlands on the eastern side of Grand Cayman. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Day of the iguana: Reptile bounces back on Grand Cayman

Successful breeding program. Driven to near extinction by non-native predators, the blue iguana now runs free on eastern side of the island

The blue iguanas are only released once they reach two years of age. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The blue iguana has lived on the rocky shores of Grand Cayman for at least a couple of million years, preening like a miniature turquoise dragon as it soaked in the sun or sheltered inside crevices. Yet having survived everything from tropical hurricanes to ice ages, it was driven to near-extinction by dogs, cats and cars.

Now, though, a breeding program some see as a global model has worked better than any had hoped to dream for a species that numbered less than a dozen in the wild just a decade ago, preyed upon by escaped pets and struggling to survive in a habitat eroded by the advance of human settlement.

Roughly 700 blazing blue iguanas breed and roam free in protected woodlands on the eastern side of Grand Cayman, a 22-mile-long (35-kilometre-long) speck in the western Caribbean that is the only place where the critically endangered animals are found in the wild.

"The kind of results that we've gotten show that it's practical and realistic to say you can restore a population of iguanas from practically nothing, just so long as you can capture the genetic variety from the beginning," said Fred Burton, the unsalaried director of the Blue Iguana Recovery Program, a partnership linking the islands' National Trust to local and overseas agencies and groups.

In a corner of the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, the "founders," or genetically diverse, wild iguanas captured for the breeding program, mate when the mood strikes in 40-foot-wide pens featuring the rocks, shrubs and trees of their natural habitat. One couple, dubbed "Mad Max" and "Biter," are free to roam outside the pens, scampering after ripened noni, a pungent, potato-sized fruit.

On a recent day at the 65-acre garden and woodland preserve, the adult iguanas were shedding skin, which resembles thin, dry paper, revealing a brilliant turquoise underneath. The primarily herbivorous creatures, which have crimson eyes, grow to roughly five feet (1.5 metres) long, weigh over 25 pounds and are at their bluest when they get excited.

Near the breeding pens, wood-and-wire cages hold the founders' young descendants, which are outfitted with transponder tags embedded beneath their skin.

The iguanas are only released into the botanical park and the 625-acre (253-hectare) Salina Reserve after they reach two years of age and are big enough to defend themselves from rats, snakes and some feral cats.

Burton and others concluded in 2001 that young blue iguanas should be released into the wild next to rough-hewn wooden shelters with tight passageways that mimic the rock holes and tree cavities where they naturally shelter from predators.

The first year of that experiment, 100 per cent of the young survived.

"When we started, we didn't know anything, so for years we just let the iguanas loose and we'd never see half of them again. A year after we came up with this very low-tech method of anchoring iguanas to the park, we found all of them were still living," Burton said, adding that young iguanas soon outgrow the wooden shelters and hardwired behaviour kicks in, driving them to make homes without any assistance

Arthur C. Echternacht, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee,

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Adult blue iguanas shed their skin, which resembles thin, dry paper, to reveal a brilliant turquoise underneath. THE ASSOC

said the Grand Cayman program has succeeded by building unusually strong relationships with international scientists as well as support from local politicians and citizens.

He also credits the tenacity and organization of Burton, a soft-spoken man who has been a steward of the Cayman Islands' environment since he moved to the U.K. Caribbean territory in 1979.

"Although Fred can seem to be a rather low-key, unexcitable Brit, he is passionate about the iguanas, very persuasive, and incredibly persistent," Echternacht said in an email.

Early on, Burton sought and received the assistance of international conservation groups, zoos and businesses in the effort. Financing and expertise, including veterinary support from the organizations has furthered the program's success.

John Binns, of the Tucson, Arizona-based International Reptile Conservation Foundation, said the basic infrastructure and steady focus of the Blue Iguana Breeding Program is "really a model on how to correctly restore a species year after year."

When the program started in 1990, most Caymanians didn't even realize that the island was home to an imperiled reptile species.

Confusing matters, invasive green iguanas, escapees from the pet trade, are flourishing in Grand Cayman and can be seen across the island.

It hasn't been all smooth sailing for the breeding program. In May 2008, about a half-dozen blue iguanas were killed in their pens, prompting a police investigation that netted no suspects.

The iguanas were found stomped and gouged, and Burton said humans, possibly with a pet dog, were almost certainly behind the massacre.

Two females had been preparing to lay eggs to help the species repopulate.

Burton said it was an "acid reminder" that not everything could go the program's way, even while it enjoyed broad support among most Caymanians.

To protect the iguanas, the breeding pens are now ringed by a fence and barbed wire.

Other researchers have been able to breed captive blue iguanas far from their native environment, though they cannot match the success of the program at home.

The overseas program is partly a hedge to make sure the imperiled reptile's genetic footprint survives any calamity.

Nearly 50 adult and juvenile blue iguanas live in 14 U.S. zoos and aquariums, which are considered partners of the breeding program, according to Tandora Grant, of the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research.

Ten more hatchlings are due to be born soon, she said.

In Europe, two blue iguanas live in the Prague zoo in the Czech Republic.

Nonetheless, the key to restoring the endangered species remains in its native habitat of Grand Cayman, where Burton hopes to have 1,000 blue iguanas living in the wild, perhaps as early as 2015.

"Once we hit 1,000 and we have a good genetic range out there we can just let the iguanas handle things themselves out in the wild without us messing around with all this complex genetic planning," Burton said at the park.

Gesturing at the breeding pens, Burton said: "Soon this will all be redundant, and that will be a very exciting day."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Soon this will all be redundant, and that will be a very exciting day."

Fred Burton, director of the Blue Iguana Recovery Program, on meeting the goals of the breeding program and eventually leaving the iguanas to themselves.

Alpine sounds

Yodeling is good for the soul

In one part of Austria, the hills are again alive with a particular sound of music — yodeling. The Alpine country has inaugurated a new hiker's path where participants are invited to let loose with an occasional melodic mountain yell. Organizers say it's push-button easy: at rest stops along the way, hikers press a knob and hear a recorded yodel in two-part harmony. They can also listen to each part separately and decide which one to try. Local yodeler and hotel owner Christian Eder came up with the idea. He told state broadcaster ORF Monday that it is an attempt "to get people to loosen up a bit with a simple yodel."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Get a 'street view' of ancient ruins

Google is adding interactive images of dozens of pre-Hispanic ruins to the "Street View" feature on its Google Maps website. Google Mexico and Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History announced Thursday that 30 sites have been added to Street View, and dozens more will be coming online this year. The eventual goal is 90 sites. The feature allows users to click on map locations to obtain 360-degree, interactive images composed of millions of photos taken at street level by specially equipped vehicles. Google uses a special, three-wheeled bicycle to generate images of the Mexican sites, many of which don't have paved areas. The sites already online include Chichen Itza.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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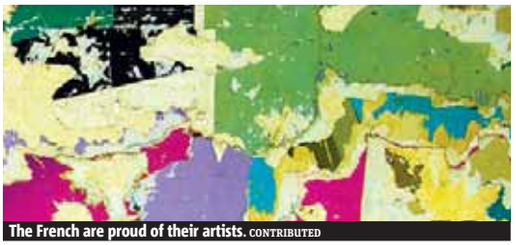
Tag! Parisian street artists are it

Graffiti. The city is known for its museums. Now the art has moved outside

JANE BORDEN
life@metronews.ca



The French are proud of their artists. CONTRIBUTED

With its vibrancy, sophistication and sheer volume of production, the Parisian street art scene — graffiti, stenciling, paste-ups — makes ours look like it's still in grade school. Sketches and tags pop up throughout the city, yes, but beyond the central circle of neighbourhoods, or arrondissements, designated areas boast entire blocks coated end-to-end on both sides with imagery that's constantly changing.

Hami Delimi of L'Oeuf Creative — an agency helping artists with branding and representation — says that many communities agree not to prosecute, particularly their native sons and daughters.

"People are proud to have the artists there," Delimi says. "However, if someone not from the community writes over a piece, that person might get in trouble."

In the 19th arrondissement, which Delimi considers a first stronghold of the Parisian graffiti movement in the '80s, that local hero is Da Cruz. His big-featured faces and bold colours are calling cards on the area's buildings, municipal walls and mailboxes; no one paints over his creations. Other celebrated tags to locate across the city include Miss.tic, Nemo, Jerome Mesnager, Jeff Aerosol, Art of Popof and Atlas.

The Futura is now

Whether you think street artists working with luxury brands are receiving justified exposure and cash or are selling out, the practice is here to stay. And its most recent contributor is also one of the art form's truest legends: Futura.

Lenny McGurr, originally known as Futura 2000, began his career tagging New York City subway cars in the late '70s. He also toured with The Clash, painting onstage while they played; enjoyed a long history of success in art galleries, largely in Paris, which housed his first exhibit in 1982 (he's currently represented by Galerie Jerome de Noirmont); went on to make album covers, T-shirts and toys; and, of course, owns a spot in the canon. Then he was quiet for a while.

But on Aug. 13 he added a Hennessy label to his collection. The limited-edition Cognac bottle is classic Futura: an abstract work of bold primary colors and atomic swirls.

Now in galleries

Traditional galleries are now littered with street artists' work, one of the more recent crossover successes being an artist named Nasty. It's also now common for luxury brands to tap the graffiti scene. The artist named Kongo printed scarves for Hermès and Monsieur A created a label for Caviar Kaspia. But some artists seem to think it's a faux pas to use their talents for commerce. Kidult has notoriously vandalized luxury-brand storefronts.

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5 top cooking courses

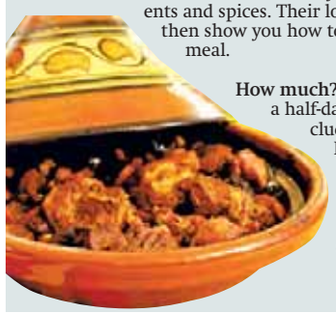
Experiencing a country's cuisine is a great way to immerse yourself in its culture. Learn how to make some national and regional dishes with these courses.

EMMA FORREST
life@metronews.ca

1 Tagine in Morocco

What is it? It's a sticky, spicy stew made with lamb or fish, slow-cooked with a mix of ingredients that could include carrots, chickpeas, olives, prunes and preserved lemons and spices including cinnamon and turmeric. Look for it in an earthenware cone dish.

Learn how to make it: In the foodie city of Marrakesh in central Morocco, you can haggle for spices in the bustling souk by day and join the locals by night to eat street food in its main square, Djemaa el Fnaa. At Dar Attajmil, a guest house in a riad — a traditional house set around a courtyard — local guides will take you food shopping in the buzzing Bab Doukkala souk to buy fresh ingredients and spices. Their local chef will then show you how to create a full meal.



How much? About $61 for a half-day course including a meal at Dar Attajmil, or $363 as part of a gourmet weekend.
BOUTIQUESOUK.COM

2 Pintxos in Spain

What is it? Pintxos are the Basque region's version of the traditional Spanish bite-sized tapas dishes. More dainty and refined than regular tapas, they include toothpicks stacked with prawns, olives, ham and peppers.

Learn how to make it: The elegant city of San Sebastian is the Basque region's gastronomic centre. It's the best place to sample pintxos, and you can learn how to create them at San Sebastian Food, a company that organizes pintxos-making classes as well as tasting tours. You'll also learn about the art of the pintxo and about San Sebastian's intriguing culinary culture, where men gather in "gastronomic clubs."

How much? About $178 for a course between 10:30 a.m. 3 p.m., including a gourmet lunch with wines, recipe cards and a boat trip to the restaurant from the centre of town.
SANSEBASTIANFOOD.COM

3 Pho in Vietnam

What is it? Vietnam's national dish, pho, is a tasty rice-noodle soup with a beef or chicken broth base.

Learn how to make it: In Saigon, the chefs from restaurant Hoa Tuc take you on a tour of Ben Thanh food market to buy the ingredients before taking you to cook a pho as part of your three-course Vietnamese meal in the restaurant's kitchen. For full immersion in Vietnamese cuisine, book a room at the Fusion Alya hotel, which opens in December. It's Asia's first culinary resort, where all gastronomic experiences are included.

How much? From $40 for the course from 8:40 a.m. to 3 p.m at saigoncooking.com.
DAILY ROOM RATE AT FUSION ALYA IS $330.

5 Curry in India

What is it? There are thousands of different types of regional curry throughout the vast country.

Learn how to make it: Plunge yourself into the art of Indian cuisine with Trip Feast's epic 15-day gastronomic voyage around Northern India. You'll tour food markets, eat banquets and sample street foods, as well as cook Kashmiri dishes with one of Delhi's finest chefs.

How much? A 15-day tour that covers Northern India including three internal flights, and more costs from about $3,300 with the gourmet tour company.
TRIPFEAST.COM/DNI

4 Chocolate heaven in France

What is it? Duh. Chocolate.

Learn how to make it: French company Valrhona cherry-picks the finest cocoa beans from around the world and makes them into high-grade chocolate that's used by luxury chocolatiers, patissiers and chefs worldwide, as well as sold in stores. At its chocolate schools in Versailles, just outside Paris and at its HQ in Tain L'Hermitage in the heart of the Rhone wine-making region, you can learn how to make mousses, cakes, eclairs, truffles and macaroons.

How much? From about $113 for a half day course from 1 to 5 p.m. (weekdays) or 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Saturday).
VALRHONA.COM

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Giving your child guidance on their first day of school

The next step. Helping your kid become familiar with their new environment will make the transition smoother for both child and parent

LINDA CLARKE
Metro New York

The first day at school isn't what it used to be. These days, by the time most children start formal education they're relatively comfortable with separation from the home and parent, says Jayne Singer, the clinical director of the Child and Parent Program at Boston Children's Hospital.

"Children who have had high-quality day care or preschool make a better transition to school both emotionally and socially," she says.

Still, even leaving a private play-based preschool to go to a public school is a big transition, but there's a lot parents can do to ease a child's stress with any environmental change. When it comes to easing anxiety, familiarity breeds comfort.

"Give the child guidance; show them pictures of their new classroom or school. A lot of schools have the good sense to hold open-houses or have a welcome visit. Visit the school, visit the playground. Show them the classroom and where they will play. The sense of familiarity will ease anxiety."

"Also," adds Singer, "younger children do well with concrete reminders about the passage of time. Get a calendar and mark off the days until school starts. Turn it into a craft project. Say, make a flower and add a petal for each day."

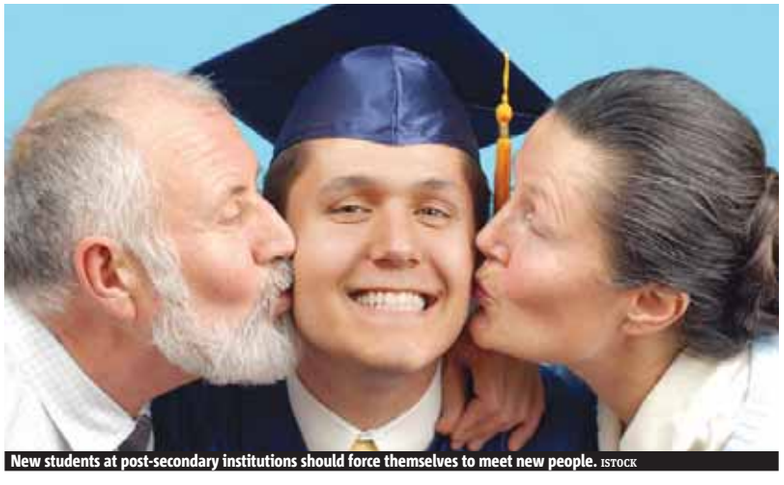
One thing parents should watch for is transferring their anxiety. "Parents shouldn't assume a child is anxious or feels separation. Don't ask, 'Are you scared?' Let the child bring it up and if they do, say, 'Of course you are. I feel nervous when I do something new.'"

Parents should also get ready in advance

"Have a conversation with personnel at the school so you are prepared for the environment," says Singer.

"The more parents know about the school, the more authentic they are in offering guidance to the child. Tell your child they will have a chance to play, they will have a place to draw and paint. Give them concrete examples of what is there. Give them a vision of the classroom as a kind and supportive place."

A child's first day at school can be much easier if they have a good idea of what they're walking into. ISTOCK


New students at post-secondary institutions should force themselves to meet new people. ISTOCK

Teen transition. How best to handle the post-secondary social shift

One of the major transitions many young adults make is the shift from high school to college life. Gone are the comforts of home, the security of past friendships and a routine existence. Instead, the college experience puts new students in an entirely new social setting with unrestrained freedom. This monumental change in lifestyle is one that may make some incoming students nervous.

"I would say, first and foremost, there's anxiety. There's fear," says mental health counsellor Kelly Shanley. "There's also the very positive emotions – happiness, joy, excitement, anticipation of being independent for the first time."

"With everything being online nowadays, I think people find – before they even get to the school because they're already on Facebook – that they'll go on and just become friends with people that are similar ages and similar backgrounds, whatever their majors are."

However, Shanley warns that too much of a good thing exists if digital friendships overshadow interpersonal relationships. This is especially true in the first few weeks, when most people don't have established friendships and it's perfectly fine to introduce yourself and be friendly to as many people as possible. Shanley says that once students are on campus, getting out and meeting people is critical to social development. She also adds that early on, colleges aim to promote these interactions.

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Take matters in to your own hands

Nneka Atto
Graduate, 2010, Bachelor of Arts in Health and Society, York University
TalentEgg.ca

It first started with not getting into teacher's college a couple of years ago. Growing up, I loved working with children, and although my career goals changed quite often, I had always kept children at the forefront. So naturally, I decided to become a kindergarten teacher. However, that didn't work out as I had originally planned.

"No worries!" I thought. "I'll just apply for a job, work for a year to get some experience, then apply to a post-graduate program."

But that didn't work out very well either. Like many graduates, I left university with high hopes, thinking that my degree was an instant ticket to a job. What I wasn't aware of was the fact that employers required, not only a degree or diploma, but years of work experience as well. My professors and career centre — though wonderful — didn't prepare me for what existed beyond the lecture hall.

I decided to change my approach: if no one is going to hire me, then I'll just hire myself. And that's when everything changed.

I began to research entrepreneurship and the notion of creating my own opportunities. When you work for yourself, you know that every minute that you're putting into your work is for you. If you're doing something that brings you joy, then that just makes it all the more worthwhile.

Where I am now
Ironically, I just got offered a part-time position as an assistant kindergarten teacher (isn't life funny?). What's even more ironic is the fact that, if I hadn't pursued a career as a singer and aspiring author, I might not have gotten the job. Just to sum it up: I created my own career, and I'm making a living as a visual artist, singer and author under the pseudonym Joshua Vegas, while working part-time as an assistant teacher.

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Combine all corners of your life to create the best plan of pursuit. ISTOCK

Finding a career that you love is not a strait path from point A to point B. It is a process of assessment, exploration and pursuit.

Assess
In your first and second year, in particular, you should be focussing on discovering your interests, skills, values and personality.

Book an appointment with a career counsellor Ask about doing some personality and career assessments that will start to give you some ideas of career direction

Take a look at your aptitudes Consider your natural talents and things you are good at. We sometimes assume something that comes easily to us comes easily for everyone, but this is usually not the case. Ask friends and family who know you to suggest some areas they see you succeeding at or having natural abilities in.

Book an appointment with an academic counsellor
For those of you in your first year you are going to need to start thinking about degree options and what you want to major in. Get some help with this process. An academic counsellor can advise you of your options and guide you to resources that will aid in making the decision.

Explore
At each stage of your degree you should be looking for opportunities to get involved and explore your interests and options, and build your resumé.

Get involved in campus clubs and organizations or volunteer in the community
This is a great way to meet new people and to build your hands-on experience. Taking on a leadership position with a club or volunteering with a not-for-profit agency can help you with your project or event management, leadership and interpersonal, communication and organizational skills, just to name a few. These experiences will help you to get an understanding of different types of work and what elements of it you enjoy.

Participate in career development workshops Every campus organizes dozens of workshops each year that can help you develop your resumé, cover letters, interview prep, networking strategies, etc. Check with your career centre for dates, times and locations.

Attend career fairs Regardless of whether you are at the point where you are looking for a job, attending a career fair will give you an idea of what companies are out there and who is hiring for what types of jobs.

Pursue
As you move closer to graduation it is time to start pursuing your goals.

Review, revise and tailor your resumé and cover letter The more time that you invest in preparing impressive documents and tailoring them to specific companies and jobs, the more likely you are to have success. Attend a drop-in session or set up a one-on-one appointment to review your resumé and cover letter.

Network, network, network.
This is often the hardest task and yet is the most likely by far to result in you finding employment. Like dating, you need to just get out there and do it. Meet as many people as you can, be considerate, polite, and respectful and you are sure to see the results. Check out your career centre for workshops and resources on successful networking.

CLARE TATTERSALL IS THE MANAGER OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING AT HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY IN LONDON, ONT. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

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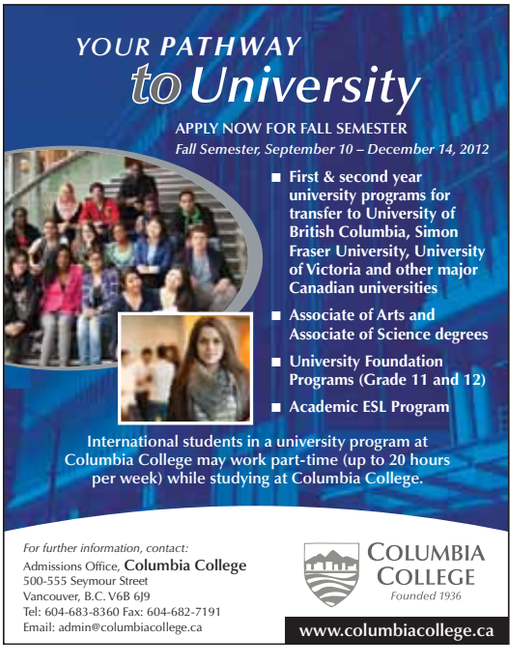
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Post-secondary profession. With these strategies, some gumption and a solid resumé, you can get started on your on-campus job search

CATHY KEATES
TalentEgg.ca

It's hard to believe, but not every opportunity can be found on the net. Look around and ask around you. ISTOCK

Most campuses have lots of student jobs available, but it isn't always easy figuring out how to find them.

While some jobs for the coming school year will have already been filled (some departments do their hiring in winter/spring of the previous year so that they are ready to go with new staff in September) there are usually still lots of jobs open in the fall.

In terms of where to look, most schools do not have one place where all the jobs are advertised.

So, it can take some legwork to look around to find what's available on your campus. And just like finding jobs anywhere, networking is key.

Here are some tips for helping you get job hunting on campus.

Visit your campus career centre

The career centre should be stop number one if you are looking for work on campus. Staff at the career centre are usually very knowledgeable about on campus work, and getting their advice first can save you lots of time with their leads and direction.

Find out about work/study programs

Many schools have part-time jobs on campus that are specifically designated for students who are in financial need. These are often called work/study programs, but may have a different name at your campus. To learn more, and to find out whether you qualify ('financial need' can be defined differently at different schools), ask staff at your career centre and/or student financial services or loan office.

Speak with professors and your department

Often professors need help with their work. Sometimes they have enough money to hire students (other times they may use volunteers). Check with your departmental staff and faculty members if you are interested in getting research-related experience.

Twitter

@TalentEgg
What are your career planning tips for students returning to school this September?

@CGA_DoMore
Broaden your career hunt and research outside the box. You'd be surprised how your education can compliment your passions. #DOMORE

@katemackenzie
Know that 70% of employers do majority of recruiting in September! Don't miss out!

@desiraeo
don't stress when all of your accounting friends have contracts in October - small firms and other industries hire much later!

@asadh7866
if you're in a graduating position, don't forget recruiting season starts in Sept! Get those resumes and cover letters ready!

Visit on-campus vendors

The restaurants, pubs, shops, and other retail outlets on campus all need staff. You can visit them and see if they are hiring.

Keep your eyes and ears open

Watch notice boards, let all your friends know you are looking and ask them if they have any contacts or leads, make sure you read the emails you might get from your department or student clubs — you never know what might turn up a job lead. The more people you speak with, the greater your chances of finding something.

CATHY KEATES IS A CAREER COUNSELLOR AND TRAINER WHO HAS WORKED AS A CAREER COUNSELLOR AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND WAS THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE CAREER CENTRE AT YORK UNIVERSITY. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

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MLS

Whitecaps' Koffie fined, suspended one game

Vancouver Whitecaps FC midfielder Gershon Koffie was suspended one game and fined an undisclosed amount for a high tackle which was deemed to be endangering the safety of Seattle Sounders FC midfielder Andy Rose in the 91st minute of their game Saturday.

Koffie was also fined an additional amount for making an improper gesture in the 91st minute. The suspension is Koffie's second in three games.

He missed Vancouver's previous game against FC Dallas after taking his fifth yellow card of the season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Jays' Lawrie back on shelf with abdominal pain

Toronto third baseman Brett Lawrie has stopped his rehab for a right oblique injury after feeling sore when he woke up on Tuesday.

Brett Lawrie
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Manager John Farrell said Lawrie, who has been on the disabled list since Aug. 4, isn't yet at a point where he might need to be shut down for the season.

Before Tuesday's 5-3 loss in Detroit, Farrell also said right-hander Brandon Morrow, who hasn't pitched since June 11 because of a left oblique injury, likely will start Saturday at Baltimore.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr speaks to reporters at the Delta Grand Hotel on Tuesday in Kelowna, B.C. GARY NYLANDER/THE CANADIAN PRESS/KELOWNA DAILY COURIER

Still looking for a 'jumping-off point'

NHL. League, players' union to focus on core economic issues during this week's labour talks

Critical week

Talks are tentatively scheduled for the next two weeks in New York so there is plenty of room for continued dialogue if the parties can start getting on the same page in the coming days.

- The tone of this week's talks should offer a good indication of whether that will happen in time for a deal to be reached before Sept. 15.

Where do we go from here?

As the NHL and NHL Players' Association resume collective bargaining talks, that is the question they're both seeking to answer.

The sides stepped away from negotiations last week with competing bids on the table and no clear road ahead. They spoke again over the weekend and agreed to devote sessions Wednesday and Thursday entirely to core economic issues — the area where the parties seem to have the most ground to make up.

"We are hoping that our meetings this week can serve as a jumping-off point for further discussion and negotiation over the critical economic and system issues that we need to resolve in order to reach an agreement," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Tuesday in an email.

Essentially, it's time to see how much each side is willing to move off its current position, if at all.

While a significant gap exists between the two proposals when it comes to the amount of money available to players, there is some common ground. The union's decision to keep a hard salary cap in place was an important step and its willingness to accept less than 57 per cent of revenues — for three years, anyway — seemed to indicate it was trying to work with the NHL.

"We thought it was a compromise," Donald Fehr, the NHLPA's executive director, told reporters last week.

Even though commissioner Gary Bettman offered a cold response to the union's offer it was a step in the right direction. Are the players willing to go even further? How far will the league move off its proposal, which called for new contract restrictions and player salaries based on 43 per cent of revenue?

The sides are operating in the shadow of a Sept. 15 deadline, when the current CBA is set to expire and the NHL has said players will be locked out.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baseball. Clemens return stint already drawing interest from Astros

Roger Clemens thinks any talk about a return to the majors is premature.

The Houston Astros decided to check him out anyway.

General manager Jeff Luhnow said Tuesday the Astros sent a scout to look at Clemens and left-hander Scott Kazmir, who also plays for the Sugar Land Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League. Clemens is to make his first start on Saturday at home against Bridgeport.

Luhnow said he wasn't sure whether Clemens was trying to make it back to the big leagues or just wanted to keep doing something he was very good at for a long time. Clemens earned about $160 million and won 354 games in a 24-year career with the Red Sox, Blue Jays, Yankees and Astros, but hasn't pitched since 2007.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roger Clemens in Sugar Land, Texas, on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Players' union head expected to stay on job while dealing with brain tumour

Baseball players' union head Michael Weiner is undergoing treatment for a brain tumour.

He began treatment Monday, and the union said Tuesday that treatments are expected to last about one month. The union also anticipates he will continue to work from its New York office on a daily basis during the treatments.

Weiner, 50, succeeded Donald Fehr in 2009 to become just the fourth head of the union since 1966.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey. Ex-NHL bruiser Laraque named head of CHL players' union

Georges Laraque has been hired as executive director of the fledgling Canadian Hockey League Players' Association.

The former NHL tough guy announced on his Twitter account that he was "proud" to accept the role Tuesday.

Specific details about how the CHLPA — which would represent major junior players in Canada — will function have yet to be formally announced.

CHL president Dave Branch told The Canadian Press on Tuesday night that he had yet to be contacted by a union representative.

Laraque spent three years in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League before moving on to an NHL career that spanned 695 games and ended in 2010.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Georges Laraque
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

4 SPORTS

Mobile sports

The first African team to play in the Little League World Series will not head home empty handed. Ugandan team Lugazi eked out a 3-2 win over Gresham, Ore., in a consolation game on Tuesday to improve its series record to 1-2. Scan the code for the story.

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Engine

The hybrid features a 156-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that co-ordinates with a 141-horsepower electric motor for a combined 200 horsepower. That's up from the 2011 Camry's total of 187 horses, but a weight reduction of about 115 kilograms helped give the hybrid plenty of uphill and passing prowess.

2012 Toyota Camry Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 with electric motor (200, combined).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 4.4/4.9.
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $28,600.

Stretch-out room

The Camry hybrid's true strength, especially on long trips, is providing plenty of comfortable stretch-out room for front and rear-seat passengers alike. It's like getting mid-size accommodations, but with the fuel consumption of a compact car.

A minor drawback is the 13 per cent reduction in trunk volume when compared to gasoline-only Camry, which isn't overly generous to begin with. With an on-the-road starting price of $28,600 for the LE model, its only about $1,000 pricier than the smaller and more sluggish Prius.

That makes the Camry hybrid a family-friendly fuel saver without equal.

There's less trunk space in the hybrid than the standard Camry.

Review. Camrys are known for their spaciousness, but the Hybrid adds low-fuel consumption to the package

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Cutting fuel consumption is only one of this Camry's many tricks, as a week of city and highway travel reveals.

Not with a bang but a whimper is how T.S. Eliot's poem The Hollow Men concludes. That also pretty much describes how Toyota's latest Camry Hybrid starts up.

Pressing the hybrid's "ON" button initially produces nary a sound, but does cause the dashboard gauge pods and control panel to glow.

But wait a few seconds and the gasoline engine portion of the duo gently comes to life as a reminder that it too is an integral part of the powertrain.

Studying the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of the Camry Hybrid involved a 3,000-kilometre excursion across a variety of city and country thoroughfares. From the outset, the idea was to drive the Camry as if it were any gasoline-powered vehicle.

On the highway the general flow of traffic was matched, which usually meant driving 15-25 km/h above the posted limits, with occasional passing bursts above that range.

When all was said and done, the Camry hybrid performed admirably. Average real-world fuel economy remained consistently in the 6.7-7.1 l/100 km range in combined city/highway driving. That's nowhere near Transport Canada's unrealistic claim of 4.7, but it's still pretty decent given the hot weather and use of A/C, load factor and exuberant driving circumstances.

The Camry hybrid is a competent piece of eco-hardware and without question is a cut or two above the first-gen model.

The hybrid interior adds a few buttons and extra gauges to track consumption, but otherwise it's just like a regular Camry. More lower back support would be appreciated.

Here's a front-view look at the Camry Hybrid.

By comparison

1 Ford Fusion hybrid
Base price: $35,000 (est.)

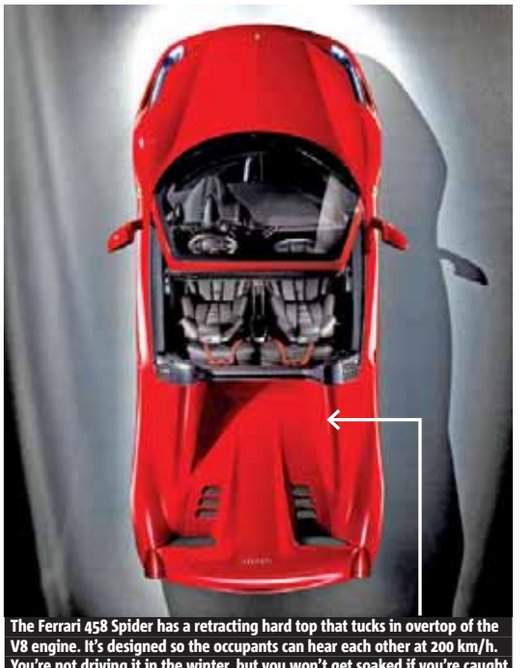
2 Kia Optima
Base price: $32,200

3 Chevrolet Malibu Eco
Base price: $28,000, est.

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

The Volkswagen EOS's mechanical tricks are fun to watch and when the roof is down it looks like it was designed that way. It holds four people and with front-wheel-drive and good tires, it could be used all year. ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE MEDIA



The Ferrari 458 Spider has a retracting hard top that tucks in overtop of the V8 engine. It's designed so the occupants can hear each other at 200 km/h. You're not driving it in the winter, but you won't get soaked if you're caught in a downpour.

Evolution of the convertible

Auto Know.
It's been a long and winding road for the topless symbol of summer

TODD D. BURLAGE
Wheelbase Media

Hardtop convertibles are all the rage because they're weatherproof, they quiet down the ride and are rather cool to watch go up and down, actually. The Mercedes SLK, the Mazda Miata PRHT, the Volkswagen EOS and even the Ferrari 458 Spider put metal where cloth used to be. Push a button ... it's just that easy.

But even on the best days, a modern convertible will cook your head and vehicle interior when the weather is sunny and then freeze you out when the weather turns cold. Put in that context, it's tough to define — or even understand — the popularity turbulence of the American convertible in its 85 years on the road.

The automotive anomaly went from a curiosity in the 1930s, to a tragic James Dean snapshot of the 1950s, to near extinction in the 1970s, to resurrection in the 1980s ... and everywhere in between along the way.

Demand for the convertible will never reach the levels of the 1950s and 1960s when the 19-foot Lincoln Continental led the list of "Land Yachts" that became standard equipment on North American roadways.

But with convertible classics such as the Chevrolet Camaro and Corvette and the Ford Mustang on the 2013 product list, this topless symbol of summer and a staple of driving freedom remains strong.

"Whether it's enjoying a lazy drive on a winding two-lane or cruising to a local drive-in," Rex Roy wrote in a recent tribute story for Popular Mechanics. "Summer and convertibles go together like lemonade and ice tea."

The evolution of the convertible has been dramatic, mainly because automakers and engineers have spent decades chasing design flaws caused from all the moving parts needed to open and close or attach and detach the roof.

In the beginning, all cars were open air because they were nothing more than motorized horse buggies, where design efforts centred on engine performance and reliability, not on creature comforts ... like a proper roof and side glass or a heating system that could keep the glass from fogging up in a fully enclosed vehicle.

The demands for improved safety and shelter led Cadillac founder Henry Leland to introduce the fully closed body design in 1905. By 1925, the closed-cabin vehicle controlled 90 per cent of the market, essentially cutting out the open-air era, but not deterring an underground push for a true "convertible" that would balance the freedom of openness with the comfort of enclosure.

Quote

"Summer and convertibles go together like lemonade and ice tea." Rex Roy

The convertible needed a breakthrough, and it got one in 1939 when Plymouth introduced the first power-controlled top.

The convenience of the power top was a brief boon, but the fruits of those improvements would have to simmer as automobile production in North America was all but halted for six years during the Second World War from 1939-'45.

But a booming post-war economy, consumer confidence, fresh designs from General Motors and some slick concepts from Ford helped push demand for the convertible through the 1950s to more than five per cent of all new car sales, it's highest level on record.

Ford controlled much of the convertible market in the 1950s with its popular Thunderbird and Fairlane models. General Motors, meanwhile, was making a mark with its "hardtop" convertible design in the Cadillac Coupe de Ville and Buick Roadmaster. The hardtop convertibles were constructed with fixed roofs and not built with the manual top-off, top-on design. But the pillarless look and disappearing side windows offered the feel of a convertible with the added protection and safety of a closed vehicle. But, when it was off, the roof needed to go someplace, which was far from handy on long journeys.

The popularity of Ford models and the success of the GM hardtops kept convertible demand levels at about six per cent of the automotive market through the 1960s, and right up until social events and economic failure ended the Glory Days and put the North American convertible on the endangered list. The carefree attitude of the 1950s and '60s gave way to the recessive '70s with two oil embargoes, government proposals for expensive roll-over crash protection, and a general disapproval in the quality control of domestic automakers. Manufacturers continued to drop convertibles from their assembly lines and in 1976, Cadillac announced its Eldorado would be the "last convertible in America," prophetically holding that distinction until Chrysler saviour Lee Iacocca unveiled the wildly popular Chrysler LeBaron convertible in 1982.

After a five-year hiatus, manufacturers were again making convertibles and Iacocca was being celebrated for saving both Chrysler and the North American convertible.

Ford and GM followed suit and converted their popular-selling Sunbirds, Cavaliers, Mustangs and Camaros, while Chrysler continues to manufacture its popular Sebring (now 200) convertible.

European and Asian automakers offer a more eclectic lineup for convertible enthusiasts and budgets but most significant is that most sports cars were convertibles, whether MGs, Triumphs or the amazing Austin Healey Hundred.

Of course, the unmatched comfort of the traditional closed-air sedan will always keep the convertible in its isolated place among new car buyers, but the convenience of the metal folding top is helping to make it easier to justify what was once considered a frivolous second-car purchase.

A convertible as a primary mode of transport? Yes, indeed, as they now merge somewhat sensible transportation and wind-in-your hair freedom into one vehicle.

Mazda began offering a power retracting hard top for the MX-5 Miata since the 2007 model year. Great looking and more security, although there's an obvious sacrifice when it comes to luggage space when the top is folded away.

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Drive and save: Seven tips for lowering that fuel bill

KATHY ULLYOTT
For Metro

Now that a tank of gas costs as much as a meal out (a fancy, romantic one if you drive an SUV), it's worthwhile saving every nickel you can — and that doesn't necessarily mean leaving your ride in the garage.

1. Properly inflating your tires can save you 3.3 per cent in fuel costs. Look for the manufacturer's recommended air pressure in your owner's manual, and check your pressure once a month.
2. Buy tires with a low rolling resistance (LRR). Elizabeth Lewis, manager of community and corporate relations for Bridgestone Americas, Inc., says Bridgestone's fuel-efficiency tires, for example, can save enough at the pump to pay for themselves in four years.
3. Slow down. Driving 120 km/h rather than 100 km/h burns approximately 12 per cent more fuel.
4. Drive smoothly. Your car burns the most fuel while accelerating, so tramping on the gas and stamping on the brake between every traffic light wastes a lot.
5. Check your air filter regularly and clean or replace it when it's dirty.
6. Go easy on the air conditioner, which can eat up to 10 per cent of your fuel when running. Try to park in the shade, use a windshield reflector when you're not driving and drive for the first few minutes with your windows down to give your A/C some help.
7. Don't lug a lot. The more weight you carry, the more gas you use.

Don't use your trunk as a mobile storeroom for tools, sports equipment or camping gear.

Owning a car is expensive. You don't have to tell that to this driver. ISTOCK

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Tips for finding the perfect used car

The new school year means new classes, new friends and, for many students, a new commute. Most students have to hit the road before they can hit the books, so finding a reliable car on a student budget is the semester's first lesson.

Whether you're a student heading to your first new home away from home, or looking for a cool but reliable way to get to class, there's still time to find the perfect used vehicle. Here are some practical, simple tips to help you find the perfect car on a budget, as well as a list of the most reliable used cars under $10,000.

• Always ask the seller for the Used Vehicle Information Package (UVIP) and request a copy of the vehicle's CarProof Vehicle History Report.

• Have a professional inspection done by a licensed technician. This can help avoid unanticipated problems and expenses later on.

• Arrange the test drive when the engine is completely cold to get a better idea of how the car starts, regardless of how long it's been parked.

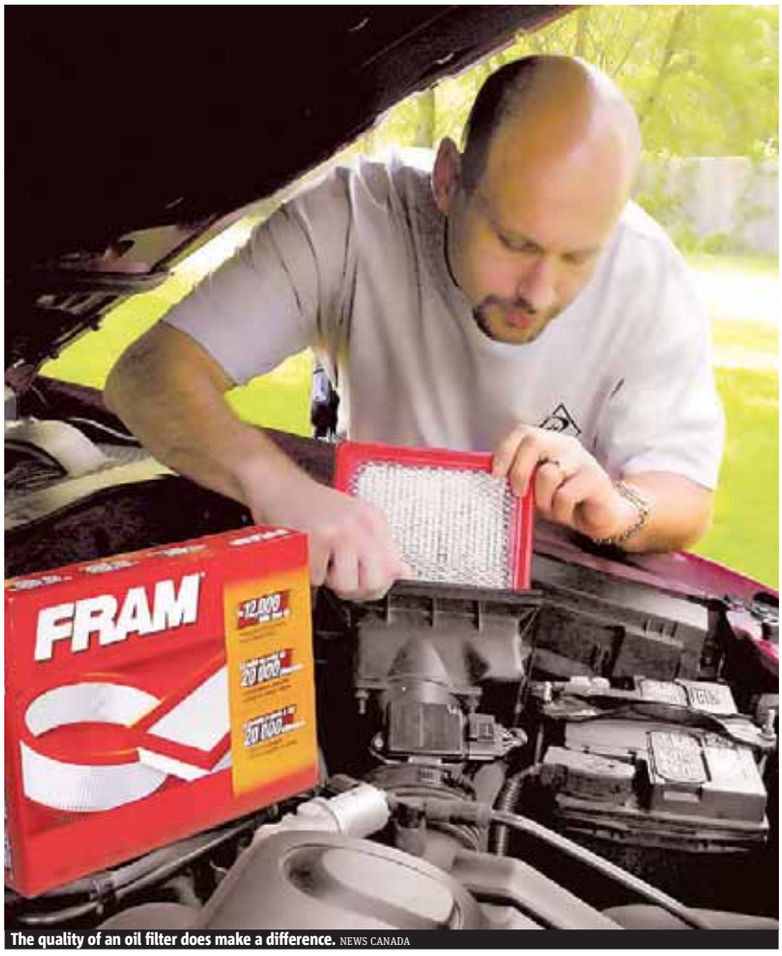
• Count the kilometres. You may need to consider some maintenance when a vehicle has accumulated over 100,000.

Top 5

Kijiji Canada's top back-to-school cars (under $10,000):

- **2005 or 2006 Honda Civic**: Sporty, fun, and reliable, this has been a top seller in Canada for over the past 10 years, so there are lots to choose from.
- **2005 or 2006 Mazda3**: A great alternative to the Civic, but a bit more stylish.
- **2007 or 2008 Hyundai Elantra**: A few years newer than most of the other models on the list, the Elantra is a reliable, comfortable, and predictable car.
- **2004 Ford Mustang (V6)**: More attitude and character than most cars at this price point.
- **2007 or 2008 Pontiac Vibe**: While GM retired the Pontiac brand, the Vibe is a still a versatile hatchback with lots of space. **NEWS CANADA**

It's a good idea to have a licensed technician perform a professional inspection before you make a used car purchase. NEWS CANADA



The quality of an oil filter does make a difference. NEWS CANADA

What do I ask when getting an oil change?

Advice. Don't blindly get maintenance done on your car, have a plan instead

Oil changes are probably the most common of automotive services — performed so frequently that consumers may often pass up the opportunity to get more for their service dollar.

With automakers trying to gain increased efficiency, the "ordinary" oil change is becoming more comprehensive. Not only are companies recommending synthetic motor oil, but many automakers are developing their own oil specifications.

"The best way for consumers to ensure that they're getting optimal protection and using a product that meets factory specs is to ask a few questions to their service provider," says Jay Buckley, an ASE-certified master mechanic and technical training manager at Fram Group.

Doing your homework by reading the owner's manual is always a plus, he notes, but simply knowing what to ask will go a long way. Here are Buckley's recommendations:

Ask what's included in the service

Many dealers and service stations bundle several different inspections in with the oil change. It's a great time for a mechanic to inspect brakes, hoses and undercar components to help stop a small problem from becoming a big and expensive one. In most cases, these additional inspections are a bargain.

Ask if the right specification of motor oil is being used

Oil-change facilities like to use "bulk oil," which as the name implies, is a single viscosity grade and specification of oil bought in bulk from a supplier. It will often suffice for many motor vehicles, but certainly not all. If your car or SUV requires a specialized formula of motor oil, such as high-efficiency 0W-20 synthetic, or a manufacturer's specification, such as GM dexos, this "standard" oil may cause problems and potentially invalidate the new-car warranty.

Ask if a premium oil filter will be installed

Often overlooked during an oil change is the quality of the oil filter. A premium filter, such as Fram UltraTM, can trap more damaging dirt from circulating through your engine. In standardized tests, this filter had double the dirt-holding capacity of the leading economy filter brands' average. The ability to trap and hold harmful particles for as much as 24,000 km becomes much more important as automakers extend service intervals, often to just once a year.

How your mechanic handles these questions can help you determine if you trust his or her work. Not only that, but you'll become an informed consumer, more knowledgeable about protecting your automotive investment. **NEWS CANADA**

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CITY (A/T): 9.5L/100KM Sorento SX shown

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Sportage SX shown

HWY (A/T): 8.2L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 9.4L/100KM

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$2,399 down payment. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,577. Offer based on 2013 Optima LX MT.

Optima SX Turbo shown

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Offer(s) available on select new 2012/2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by August 13, 2012. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select 2012/2013 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Soul 1.6L AT (SO75C) with a selling price of $21,867 (includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, $500 loan savings, $1,050 "3 payments on us" savings, other fees and certain taxes (including lien levies) and A/C tax ($100, where applicable)) financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Bi-weekly payments equal $166 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA and registration fees are extra. Cost of borrowing is $0, for a total obligation of $21,867. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ***Don't Pay for 90 Days" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2012 and 2013 models on approved credit (OAC). 2012/2013 Sportage/Sorento/Sedona excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal plus interest monthly over the term of the contract. ‡Bi-weekly finance payment for 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75B)/2013 Sorento 3.5 LX V6 (SR75D) based on a selling price of $28,667 ($32,267 $3,955 NTV with an APR of 0% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,048/$9,885 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Offer includes a lease savings of $500. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, other fees and certain taxes (including lien levies) and A/C tax ($100, where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, admin fee (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. See dealer for full details. §Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC) on 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT FWD (SP54LD) based on monthly payments of $236.82 (includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650/$1,455, other fees and certain taxes (including lien levies), A/C tax ($100), where applicable), $750 lease service fee and a lease savings (lease credit) of $500/$450 for 48 months at 0.9% with a $1,499/$2,299 down payment/equivalent trade. Optional $1 purchase option at lease end. Lessee responsible for excess wear and use and excess kilometres (20¢/km over 16,000 km/year). Lessee responsible for security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,899/$13,945 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $11,576/$10,764. Lease has 16,000 km/year allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). Other taxes, registration, insurance, licensing, PPSA and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) are excluded. ‡Loan savings for 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75B)/2013 Sorento 3.5 LX V6 (SR75D) is $500, and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. **3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease a new 2012/2013 Rio-4 Sedan/Rio5/Forte/Forte Koup/Forte5/Sorento from a participating dealer between August 1 – August 13, 2012. Eligible lease and purchase finance (including Flex Choice) customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $300/$300/$350/$350/$550/month. Lease and finance purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $900/$900/$1,050/$1,050/$1,650 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. ^ECO-Credit for 2013 Optima Hybrid is $1,000 and is applicable to the purchase or lease of a new 2013 Kia Optima Hybrid. Available at participating dealers. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ◆Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 2.5L SX AWD (SR75RD)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX with Navigation (SP75RD)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX Turbo AT (SP78RD) is $43,045/$39,145/$35,550 and includes a delivery and destination fees of $1,650/$1,650/$1,455, other fees and certain taxes (including lien levies) and A/C tax ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, admin fee (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary. Some conditions apply to the $500 Good Rebate Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

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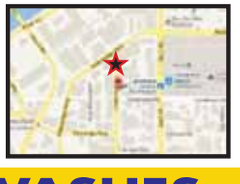

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Driver training best left to non-parents

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

You can never start not listening to your father too early. Amelia Goetz, around 1 1/2 years old, behind the wheel of her father's Jaguar and not looking at all where she's driving. CONTRIBUTED

Sixteen candles light up Amelia's birthday cake. They also produce an invisible cloud of angst, which settles nicely in her father's psyche.

Looming directly ahead: The Year Amelia Learns to Drive.

The father is an automotive journalist, and more than familiar with the statistics, which show teenage drivers are particularly good at crashing.

Young people like to travel in packs. Net result: A motor vehicle accident is the leading cause of death for people 15-24 years of age (Statistics Canada). That group had 2,247 total deaths in 2007 — 703 were due to motor vehicle accidents.

His line of business has also made him ruminate quite a bit on how one should go about driving a motor vehicle. Family members have even mentioned, on several occasions, that he might ruminate about such matters a bit too much. So he wonders if he might be too harsh a critic for a burgeoning driver, and for one he is already holding his breath for…

He also understands that maybe he knows the student too well. He cannot forget, for instance, all the absent-minded manoeuvres and poor decision-making she displayed when she was four.

The father also remembers how he was taught to drive by his own father — a generally successful endeavour, punctuated by a memorable blow-up that made suppers awkward for several weeks later, until respective tempers cooled down. The student at the time always thought that a professional instructor would not have gotten quite that angry at him for "almost" driving into a big fence post. (Though time has seen that student sympathize a bit more with his old man, and that man's feelings for his prized, brand-new 1973 Plymouth Fury II.)

All this made the current father wonder if he was the right man for the job.

It was always the family's plan to get Amelia into a professional driving course at some point. What harm would it do, for the father to first teach her some basics?

So when Amelia recently obtained her beginner's licence (known as G1 in Ontario), and requested a first lesson from her father, the father said "OK."

While Amelia meandered around the Loblaws' parking lot somewhat inconsistently, the father forced himself to be especially calm, encouraging, and instructive. He took solace in the fact that this particular student always came through in the end, always took responsibility, and could already do many clever things. He took pains not to instruct too much. He thought things went well.

Funny then, that Amelia remembers it differently. She remembers her father being too tense and nervous, too wordy, and too critical. It was an environment, she says, not at all conducive to learning a difficult task.

Driver training is best left to the professionals — they know their stuff, and they're not the parents.

Century-old technology helps current hybrids

Driving Force.
Atkinson cycles decrease power in engines, but increase fuel efficiency

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Atkinson cycle facts

- Every new Toyota and Lexus hybrid uses the Atkinson cycle, to increase its fuel efficiency.
- Older Atkinson cycle engines used mechanical methods to adjust the stroke, but modern engines use electronics to adjust the valve timing.

The Toyota Prius C uses the Atkinson cycle. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

It's been said that "everything old is new again." That's definitely the case with the Atkinson cycle engine, which is used on several hybrid vehicles, including the Toyota Prius. This modern technology is based on a system devised by James Atkinson back in the 1880s.

"You're drawing more energy out of the gasoline," says John-Paul Farag, manager of advanced technology and powertrain at Toyota Canada. "There's no extra maintenance, and it doesn't feel any different, but it's a different way of timing the valves to squeeze more power out of the fuel."

Engines contain pistons, which move up and down to turn a large central crankshaft that eventually powers the wheels, much the same way that your legs go up and down to pedal a bicycle. The pistons are powered by gasoline, and the length of their movement is called the stroke. Each piston makes four strokes per cycle: drawing in gasoline vapour, compressing it, providing the power, and then pushing out the exhaust.

By adjusting the opening and closing of the valves that let in the gasoline, engineers can adjust the length of each stroke. In an Atkinson cycle, the piston strokes are manipulated to be as fuel-efficient as possible. This means the engine isn't as powerful, which is why the Atkinson cycle isn't used in regular vehicles.

"What we're trying to achieve is a much more efficient cycle, but the drawback is at the expense of power," Farag says. "It's ideal for hybrids, because they have electric motors to compensate."

When more power is needed, such as for acceleration — power that a regular Atkinson cycle engine wouldn't be able to provide on its own — the hybrid's electric motor runs in conjunction with the gasoline engine to give the driver what's needed. While hybrids traditionally get their best mileage in the city, the Atkinson cycle also allows them to achieve excellent fuel economy on the highway, since the electric motor and gasoline engine work together.

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3.5 SR model shown*

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2.0 SL model shown*

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Crew Cab SL 4x4 model shown*

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^$14,000 Cash Discount is based on non-stackable trading dollars and is only applicable to 2012 Titan Crew Cab models. Cash Discount value varies by model. †0%/0.9%/0.9% purchase financing for up to 84/84/84 months available on 2012 Altima Sedan 2.5 S Luxury Package/Sentra 2.0/Rogue FWD S models. Representative finance example based on Selling Price of $29,293 for 2012 Altima 2.5 S Luxury Package (T4RG12 CA00), CVT transmission, financed at 0% APR for 84 months equals $320 per month with $2,400 down payment. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $29,293. ≠Finance offers are now available on new 2012 Altima 2.5 S Luxury Package (T4RG12 CA00), CVT transmission/2012 Sentra 2.0 (C4LG12 BN00), CVT transmission/2012 Rogue FWD S (W6RG12 AA00), CVT transmission. Selling Price is $29,293/$20,345/$25,028 financed at 0%/0.9%/0.9% APR equals $138/$98/$118 bi-weekly for 84/84/84 months. $4,250/$3,100/$4,300 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is $0/$555/$668 for a total obligation of $29,293/$20,900/$25,696. Models shown $32,793 Selling Price for a new 2012 Altima 3.5 SR (T4SG12 AA00), CVT transmission/$24,845 Selling Price for a new 2012 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG12 AA00), CVT transmission/$35,528 Selling Price for a new 2011 Rogue SL AWD (Y6TG12 AA00), CVT transmission/$45,828 Selling Price for a new 2012 Titan CC SL 4X4 SWB (3CFG72 AA00), automatic transmission. ^†≠ Freight and PDE charges ($1,695/$1,567/$1,750/$1,730), air-conditioning tax ($100), certain fees where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between August 1st and August 31st, 2012.

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Check used Nitro for transmission issues

Second Gear.
2007 to 2011
Dodge Nitro

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Nitro brought Dodge's presence to the utility vehicle scene occupied by models like the Nissan Rogue and Hyundai Santa Fe.

Driver-selectable four-wheel drive, plenty of ground clearance and a solid rear axle made this a family-ready ute that could handle towing and off-road use with ease.

Trim levels started with SE for a 'basic' Nitro, with SXT, SLT and R/T filling the model range from less to more loaded.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Common Issues

Be sure to "feel" for any signs of transmission slippage or a "shudder" at lower speeds and under light loads — which could indicate a problem with the transmission or torque converter, or the computer that controls them. If the transmission exhibits any of these symptoms, be sure to have it checked. Some owners have reported transmission or torque converter replacement under warranty.

Have a mechanic inspect your candidate for signs of oil leakage — particularly around the rear of the oil pan, and at the rear differential. Be sure any leaks are remedied ahead of your purchase.

Finally, check the ceiling liner and front footwells for signs of moisture that could be caused by a leaky sunroof, if equipped.

Engine

Power came from a 3.7-litre, 210-horsepower V6, or a 4-litre V6 with up to 260 horsepower. Manual and automatic transmissions were available.

What Owners Like

Nitro owners rate ride, handling, flexibility, confidence, and all-season traction highly. The upgraded stereo is well liked, as is the styling and overall "bang for the buck" where feature content is concerned.

What Owners Dislike

Common complaints include limited footwell space, limited headroom for taller drivers, and a long reach for the gear shifter.

Verdict

Styling, driving dynamics and a high degree of capability and utility are the largest draws to the Nitro as a used buy. Seek the advice and approval of a trained Dodge mechanic ahead of your purchase.

Latest AVIC puts smartphone functionality in your dashboard

Product review.
Pioneer AVIC Z140BH

The smartphone is today's go-to device for one-touch access to multimedia, contacts, information, entertainment and directions. Incidentally, they're illegal to use while you drive — despite how rapidly advanced connectivity is becoming a part of the modern motoring experience.

Automakers have responded with ever-improving "infotainment" systems in their latest models that seek to provide easy access to many connectivity features — though Pioneer has been proving for years that one needn't buy a new ride to benefit from them.

Pioneer's line of AVIC 'all-in-one' head-units offer top-line functionality for drivers using almost any ride as a personal listening space, a mobile office, or anything in between. The new AVIC Z140BH is hitting shelves now — and your writer recently took one for a test-drive.

It was an intimidating proposition, at first. The AVIC is the market's leading high-tech, in-car entertainment and communications hub, and I have a level of tech-savviness that would make Mark Saltzman nauseous.

But the AVIC is designed to mimic the functionality of a smartphone, like my Android-based Motorola Razr. There are numerous similarities.

Like my phone, the AVIC uses a few "fixed" buttons to reduce distraction and ease navigation, in conjunction with a colourful sliding, animated, touch-activated interface. Just like on your favourite smartphone, directions, contacts, music and other information is always a tap or swipe away. You can even drag and drop custom shortcut items onto your AVIC's home menu for easy access.

The AVIC sweeps smoothly between navigation, radio tuner, Bluetooth playback and other functions — thanks partly to a built-in graphics accelerator. Pairing the Z140BH with my Motorola Razr handset via Bluetooth was easy, and aside from a handful of split-second lags, the entire thing ran liquid smooth.

Oh, and the giant touch-screen folds out of the way to accept a CD, if you're still listening to those. The tested AVIC unit looked great both in action and while turned off — thanks to a professional install.

Mike Kalicki recently had the unit fitted to his Ford F-350 using Future Shop's Connect Pro service.

"They're easy to work with," he mentions. "I just set up an appointment, told them what kind of truck I have, and they had everything ready when I got there."

Contact your favourite electronics retailer or installer to make sure the AVIC will fit in your ride.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

Dueck Auto Group NOBODY BEATS A DUECK DEAL!

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BI-WEEKLY $93
PAYMENT BASED ON 3.49% FOR 84 MONTHS

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#3SP3775, **Power windows, track control, stabilitrac, 5 yr. 160,000 km. powertrain warranty**

$14,995

0% finance for 48 months

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#2EQ4915, **Automatic trans., Bluetooth, OnStar, 5 yr 160,000 km. warr. Power windows, locks, keyless entry**

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you look at the big picture today while leaving the details to other people, you will come unstuck. One detail in particular, if neglected, could cause you all sorts of problems, especially at work.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be generous by nature but there are times when you need to do less for others and more for yourself, and this is one of them. What is it you most desire? Go out and get it today.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The Sun's move into one of the more emotional areas of your chart will show you how you have been neglecting family and loved ones. It's not too late to do something about it but start now.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you are bored with the same old places and the same old faces, why not get up and get on the move? If you think about it, there is nothing to hold you back — though that won't stop some people from trying.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The Sun moves into the money area of your chart today, so you need to pay attention to your spending habits. If you have been living beyond your means then cutbacks have to be made. No, not later — right now!

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A new solar year begins today and already you can sense that it will be a special one. Never mind about all those promises you made and never lived up to — dare to dream and your dreams will come true.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may not have achieved as much as you wanted to by this stage of the year but don't feel bad about it because there is still time to make a difference. You have so much to look forward to, so smile.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Anyone who thinks you are too cautious will be surprised by the things you get up to over the next few days. You have the planets' permission to, if not break the rules exactly, to at least bend them a little.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You won't be content with minor victories today — you want to show the world that you are the best at what you do. Ambition is a wonderful thing, but do you have self-knowledge to go with it?

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun's move into your fellow Earth sign of Virgo marks the start of a four-week phase when most things will go right for you. Does that mean you should take a few more chances? Yes it does.

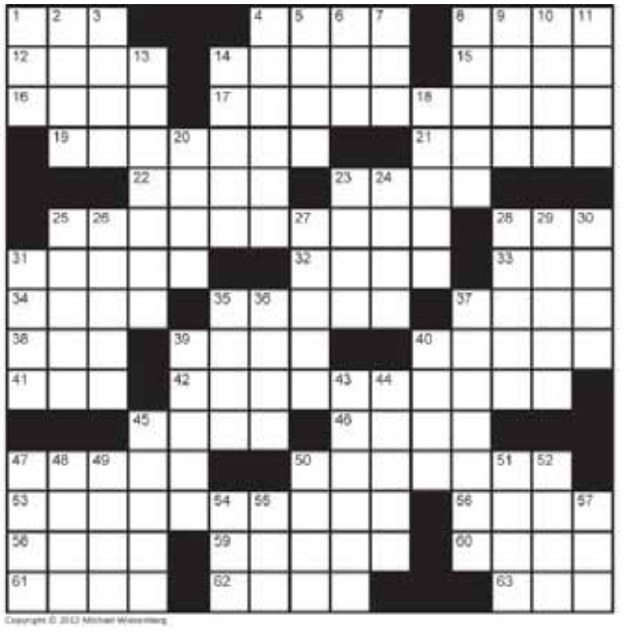
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
As an Aquarian you are used to the ups and downs of life but even you need a safe and stable place to rest once in a while. If you haven't got such a place you need to start making one now.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun in Virgo over the next few weeks will bring partnership issues to a head and that's good. There can be no more running away from your emotions — you have got to share your feelings with the world.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Famous Canadians

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. ___ Paulo, Brazil
4. Altar end of a church
8. Operatic solo
12. A tbsp. contains three
14. Snooped
15. Throw away
16. Perhaps the most common word heard in early Beatles songs
17. Sudbury, Ontario-born *Jeopardy!* host (2 wds.)
19. Applauded
21. Lets up
22. Come ___ end: conclude (2 wds.)
23. Ball-shaped cheese
25. Art ___: Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan-born *House Party* and *People Are Funny* host
28. "Do ___ say!" (2 wds.)
31. Indian currency
32. 10 million of them equal a joule
33. Capt.'s subordinates
34. Hertz Rent-___-___
35. 640 make 1 square mile
37. Toronto-born classical pianist Gould
38. "Just a___": little bit
39. Cupid
40. Icy precipitation
41. Snake warning
42. Ottawa-born star of *The Blues Brothers* and *Ghostbusters* (2 wds.)
45. 2:1 or 3:1
46. Consumes
47. "See if ___!" (2 wds)
50. Lightweight umbrella
53. Montréal-based 2011 Juno Album of the Year winning group (2 wds)
56. A Great Lake
58. After-dinner candy
59. John ___: first American to orbit the earth and, later, Ohio senator
60. Alta. neighbor
61. Something in one's bonnet, maybe (2 wds.)
62. Rowboat equipment
63. Fall behind

Down
1. Pig pen
2. "Be with you in ___!" (2 wds)
3. Australia's gemstone
4. Garfield's feline girlfriend
5. "The ___ Piper of Hamelin"
6. Gender
7. Summer time in Ont.
8. The ___: series starring Mr. T (2 wds.)
9. Burglarizes
10. "Mmm-hmm" (2 wds.)
11. Requests
13. Montréal-born *Star Trek* star
14. Concerning the Vatican
18. Raises
20. Jab
23. To be: Fr.
24. Grads get them: abbr.
25. George who created *Star Wars*
26. Apple tablet computers
27. ___ firma: ground beneath one's feet
28. Common trashcan site
29. Horse
30. "It ___ your concern": "None of your business"
31. "Drat!"
35. *Diary of* ___ *Housewife* (2 wds.)
36. Jailbirds
37. ___ over: examines perfunctorily
39. Appended
40. Spanish equivalent of mlle.
43. Aches (for)
44. Actress Black or Allen
45. Speechify
47. "___ Rock": Simon and Garfunkel hit
48. Baby's bed
49. Teenager's problem
50. Fishing site
51. Spoken
52. Bart Simpson's sister
54. Megalomaniacal feature
55. Tampa's state: abbr.
57. Heart measure, for short

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

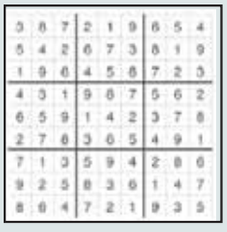
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

6								7
	3	2				9	1	
			5	3	9			
		4	6	8	5	1		
2	5						8	6
		6	4	2	7	5		
			2	9	1			
	7	3				6	2	
1								9

Yesterday's Sudoku



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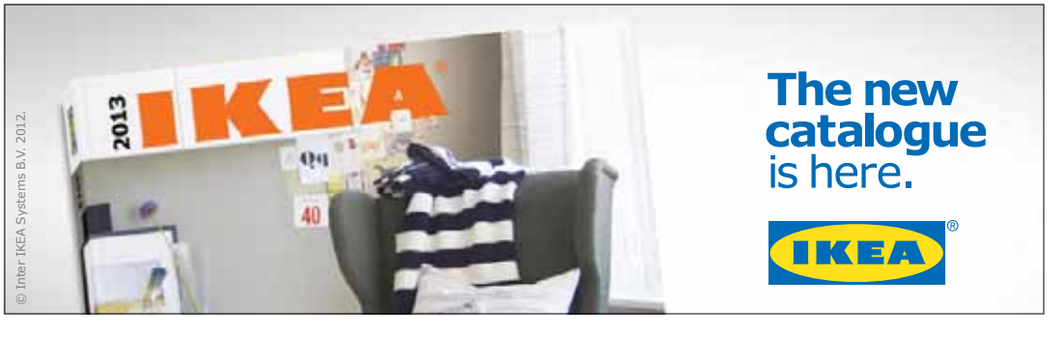

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